

KIM HEARL

11 McFadden Drive
Wilton, CT 06897

February 25, 2019

Dear Education Committee,

As a resident and 20-year homeowner of Wilton, CT, and parent of public-school students, I vehemently oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

There are major ramifications to the CT economy and our schools if any of these bills were to pass.

- These bills would eliminate local control of Wilton schools. As CT homeowners, we are all concerned about the potential impact of larger school sizes, decreasing administrator and community engagement.
- Multiple studies have shown that consolidation does not lead to efficiencies, but rather lack of economic benefits for broad district consolidation.
- Larger scale and differing priorities could lead to a decline in the quality of Wilton's schools, as well as those of districts to be consolidated with Wilton. None of these bills include even one mention of school quality.
- The majority of residents who have purchased homes in Wilton list our quality schools as their top reason for purchase. This bill would jeopardize Wilton's reputation for high quality, locally controlled education.
- The existence of these bills is already dissuading potential homebuyers from considering CT, or is driving decisions of people to leave CT.

Ultimately, we moved here for the schools, and the existing Wilton school quality is what keeps us here. The potential regionalization would erode the quality and the character of our local schools, which will erode the quality of our town.

I certainly hope that our elected representatives will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Sincerely,

Kim Hearl

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