

February 22, 2019

TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE / CONNECTICUT STATE SENATE

RE: SB 454/738 AND SB 874

I am writing to voice my opposition to the bills proposing forced regionalization of school districts in Connecticut.

Forced regionalization of local school districts has the potential to erode the quality of education in high-achieving school districts without actually yielding cost savings. The National Education Policy Center has concluded that financial benefits from district consolidation are overestimated and can actually have negative impacts such as higher transportation costs and lowering the morale of teachers, students and parents. A study in Education Finance and Policy indicated that any cost benefits were found only when the consolidated districts were extremely small (fewer than 1000 students per district), which would not apply to my town, Wilton.

Aside from the impact on the quality of education in my town, the proposal to regionalize school districts is already having a negative impact on our town's property values, since the overwhelming reason homebuyers choose Wilton is its excellent school district.

For all of the reasons indicated above, I urge you to oppose forced regionalization of school districts in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Laura Iorfino  
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(registered Democrat)