

Re: SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

As a Wilton parent of two girls, I strenuously oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874. Wilton Schools have always been excellent. This is no accident; it is the result of purposeful dedication, planning, organization, work, sacrifice and involvement by the Community. Moreover, because Wilton is a relatively small school district, there is a true feeling of community in the schools. Parents, teachers, students all know each other, both in and out of the schools. As a result, everyone has a stake in the productivity of the schools, and it provides incentive for all, but most particularly the students to perform to the best of their abilities.

America was once known as the “Land of the Free”. Part of that freedom was working hard and providing for your family to the best of your ability. Education of our children has always been a primary concern of Americans, and Americans have historically been able to seek out the best education for their children wherever they can find it. Choosing where to live and where to send your children for schooling has always been a fundamental right of Americans; it’s one of the few freedoms that hasn’t been eroded by an increasingly officious and incompetent government structure – until now!

These bills threaten all that has worked in Wilton, and propose to make fundamental changes in how these schools are structured and financed. They totally ignore the historical freedom that we as American citizens have enjoyed, and, if effectuated, they will absolutely downgrade the quality of the public education in Wilton. These bills will lead to mammoth expansion of the size of the school districts, create centralized control of educational policy from bureaucrats with little to no understanding of life in Wilton and basically erode the great success of our schools until they resemble other – failed- school districts.

Lastly, I must say that I am sick and tired of the ineptitude and malfeasance of our so called political leaders; they act irresponsibly, run up huge, unfunded liabilities that they cannot possibly pay, and then demand that tax payers bail them out. These redistricting proposals are a direct result of governmental incompetence, which is why redistricting has been proposed now. In addition to these bills lacking any educational merit, they are economically suspect. Anyone who thinks about the herculean administrative task of merging these educational entities can easily see that money will not be saved. In all probability we will be paying more (which seems always to be the case in Connecticut).

These proposed bills should be voted down. Like the old saying goes, “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.”

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