

Hello –

Re: Forced Regionalization Bills: SB 738, SB 457, SB 874

I am resident of North Stonington, CT. I am opposed to forced regionalization of small public schools. I have 4 children. Between them all, they have been to private school, home-schooled and to public school, so I feel I have a good grasp of various educational methods. I love our public school. No, it is not perfect, but my kids have thrived because of the personal approach they have received at Wheeler High/Middle School. They are a some-body. Not just a #. My kids have done very well. In fact, my oldest daughter will be graduating from the United States Naval Academy this May. She looks forward to serving her country as a physician in the Navy – with a dream of being an emergency trauma surgeon. I know she has accomplished this amazing achievement through her hard work and determination – along with the support and encouragement from the teachers and staff at Wheeler. My second child has also done well and is a 3rd class (sophomore) at the Air Force Academy. Did you know that Wheeler is the smallest public school in the state and has done an amazing job educating its youth without being regionalized? As a town we voted to build a new high school to keep our kids in town. They will be moving into this new school in March!

To be honest – we still live in Connecticut, specifically in North Stonington, because we want our 2 younger children to graduate from Wheeler. I have a Junior & Freshman at Wheeler and look forward to seeing where they will go after high school. In fact, Wheeler is the only reason we still live in Connecticut. When our children graduate – we do not see a reason to stay in a state that can't control its spending and thinks the only solution is to burden its citizens with more taxes (and now to take away good schools). I do not see how forcing a town to regionalize with other towns is beneficial for an individual town. Completely disappointed with these proposed bills.

Sincerely,

Michelle Melinosky