

I am writing to you to express my extreme opposition to school regionalization as proposed in SB457 and SB738.

I have been a Simsbury resident for almost my entire life. I tell everyone I meet that I live in Simsbury because I am so very proud of where I live and how hard we have to work to stay here. I attended Squadron Line, Henry James (where my husband and I met) and Simsbury High, graduating in 2006. My husband and I loved the experience of growing up in Simsbury so much that we decided to work our butts off to give our four children the same opportunities that were given to us by our parents. Opportunities that are easily accessible to all students given Simsbury's incredible education system.

My husband and I accidentally became pregnant when we were 19. We had our first son at 20 and went on to work non-stop for the next 10 years while we brought 3 more children into our family. We were so desperate to give our children the opportunities and education offered in Simsbury that we bought a foreclosed home in Squadron Line district when we were 24. We were completely broke but we knew this was what we wanted more than anything. I loved my elementary school so much that I refused to look in other towns or other school districts. I was proud of my education and wanted the same for my children. We went on to give everything we had and to work every moment to make that home an investment so we could buy our forever home just a few streets down to be even closer to Squadron Line this past June.

Being an especially young family that has had to sacrifice so much just to give our kids the same upbringing we had, we are shocked and saddened that regionalization is even being considered. We pay incredibly high taxes just to live here. We paid considerably higher for our homes JUST to be here. We have been financially struggling for the past 10 years JUST to provide our children with the very best. We are drained from what we have to give in order to ensure our children can grow up here. I know that my husband and I have managed to do as well as we have given everything we have been through BECAUSE we grow up in Simsbury and BECAUSE we went to some of the very best public schools that the country has to offer.

I urge you to please strike this bill down. We, like so many other residents, have worked our entire lives to give our children this education that Simsbury has to offer. One we pay considerably for. If this bill goes through, everything we have worked for will have been for nothing. There will be no reason for us to continue to live in Connecticut and pay these incredible taxes. Everyone always asks us why a young family would pay such high taxes when we could live out of state and live comfortably. Our answer is always the same. Our schools.

Please consider our plea to keep our dream and our children's dreams alive.

Thank you,

Ashley (Asia) Muth and John Muth (class of 2006) and our children,
Skyler Muth (10), Phoebe Muth (7), Oliver Muth (5) and Ezra Muth (2)