

Feb 26, 2019

Wilton, CT

Dear Legislator,

As a parent of public school students, I strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

We moved to the beautiful district of Wilton, CT in October 2017 primarily for the schools, and existing school quality is what keeps us here. We believe that the bills erodes the quality and the character of our local schools, which erodes the quality of our town, I am concerned about the potential impact of larger school sizes, decreasing administrator and community engagement. There is evidence that the proposed bills are already preventing people from coming to CT, or is driving decisions of people to leave CT.

Research by the National Education Policy Center concluded that benefits from school district consolidation are “vastly overestimated.” Further, an article in Education Finance and Policy suggested that district consolidation may actually create negative impacts such as higher transportation costs, a “leveling up” of salaries, and more negative attitudes among staff members and parents. The same study suggests that financial benefits may be found only when consolidation of very small districts (fewer than 300 to 1000 students) occurs.

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

Regards,

Lakshmi Natarajan

Wilton, CT