

My name is Ildar Revall and I am writing to express my strong opposition to forced regionalization of school districts in Connecticut. I am a Wilton resident and the father of two boys. The only reason my wife and I invested our savings to buy a house in Wilton was to provide a wonderful education for our children.

It is truly disturbing that these three senate bills proposing such drastic measures are under a serious consideration. Let's consider what's at stake here... On the one hand, these proposals to consolidate school districts in Connecticut are not backed up by any numbers, so there is zero proof that it's going to have any economic benefits. And it's no surprise that there is no serious financial analysis to support this. Imagine the scale of this... A very high percentage of school districts in CT would be impacted if any of these proposals become a law, so it would be impossible to figure out all the hiring and firing decisions, impact on teacher salaries, all the additional bus rides, as well as the financial impact of a million other events that would be triggered by this.

What do we have on the other hand? On the other hand, we have changes so radical that they have the potential to turn schools in the entire state upside down, destroy the quality of education in some of the best public schools in the nation. Even if there were proof of some economic benefits, the value of such savings would be by far outweighed by the irreversible harm done to our schools. How do you measure the harm to our children's future? What should not be in dispute here is the fact that local parental control of our children's education will be lost in many of the towns, the very local parental control over the local boards of education that has created a wonderful educational opportunity for many kids in Connecticut. Why risk destroying the best what CT has to offer and what took decades to build?

In conclusion... Our town of Wilton has never been so united in opposition to a proposed legislation as it has in the last few weeks in opposition to proposed forced school consolidation. This is one truly nonpartisan issue for the vast majority of Wilton residents. The same is true for many other towns in Connecticut. I urge you to heed our voices and oppose the proposed bills SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874.

Sincerely,

Ildar Revall,

553 Danbury Rd, Wilton, CT