

February 27, 2019

Dear Education Committee,

Testimony Regarding Bills SB738, SB457 and SB874

From the Town of Wilton, CT

I'm writing to inform you I'm another parent and Wilton, CT resident in opposition to these bills for many of the reasons that have been brought about, especially concerns about quality of education, maintaining an intimate school experience for my children that has consistency, calmness, dependability well attended problem solving for each child's learning and social needs, enriching culture and town school pride. Of course financial stability is key as well, something that Wilton is sensitive to but can't afford to fund alone or take in more expenses from unpredictable and unknown regionalization expenses or being rejected from eligibility for state funding.

I'm well in favor of maintaining local administration that's available and knowledgeable about the idiosyncrasies of our own school district and is ready to act. Bigger isn't always better. It becomes more difficult to handle individual problems and have adequate oversight and funding as demonstrated by many large municipalities in state and country. We become a number rather than an individual. Wilton and many other towns like it stand to lose it's individuality, the history it's been founded upon can be covered up as towns are forced to merge together. The beauty of each area is threatened. Home values stand to decrease and thus taxes may drop as families aren't drawn to relocate and choose our area to settle. All detrimental effects to future generations.

I expect proper resolutions will be formed to address this issue. I hope and pray that the future will be strong for our town and towns all across the state and not laden and brought down by providing for other areas that have differing problems when we're not in a position to do so and not should be told to do so.

Thank you again for your service to our state and my family of 5 (3 kids ages 6,8,11 and veterinarian husband)

Sincerely,
Sarah Santisi