

116 Wild Duck Road  
Wilton, CT 06897

February 26, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

As a parent of two elementary school students in the Wilton Public School District, I strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 or any other legislation that would force regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Prior to moving to Wilton in 2005, my wife and I lived in Norwalk for seven years. However, when we decided to start our family, we instinctively began searching for a new home in Wilton, where my wife had been raised and educated. We were primarily drawn to Wilton because of its strong focus on education, and we now have grave concerns that the excellence of the education offered by the Wilton Public School District may now be in jeopardy. Students do not learn and develop in a vacuum. The relationships that the students form with their teachers and peers in a smaller school district such as ours cannot be replicated in a larger system, such as that which would result through forced regionalization. While we enjoyed our time in Norwalk, we have found our home in Wilton and don't want to see the social fabric torn apart.

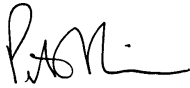
When my wife and I made the decision to move to Wilton from Norwalk, we knew that we would be giving up the many benefits of living in Norwalk. We would no longer have free access to a public beach, free refuse and recycling pickup, public water and sewer, our commutes would be longer, etc. Our housing expenses and real estate taxes are significantly higher as compared to what we were paying in Norwalk, but to us, there is no question that the quality of the education that is provided by the Wilton Public School District, *in its present form*, makes it worth the economic sacrifice.

The Town of Wilton has historically been very fiscally conservative and responsible, leading to its consistent Aaa bond rating. Cost cutting through shared services has been a priority for the local

administration, so this is not a criticism of the general concept of regionalization. However, it should be a decision made on the local level and not something forced upon us by the State.

I strongly encourage you to oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Shiue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Peter S. Shiue  
Commissioner, Wilton Planning & Zoning  
Commissioner, Connecticut Commission on Equity and Opportunity