

Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

We strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 or any other attempt at forced regionalization of Connecticut's public schools. They harm our communities and schools. They undermine the voices of parents and teachers within our local schools. They are a blatant attempt at redistributing wealth.

A major change to the Connecticut public schools should not be forced by the legislature.

These bills are an attempt at a forced regionalization of the Connecticut public schools. Such a MAJOR change should not be forced by the legislature (top down) but instead be decided by local town referendums (bottom up) so that the voices of parents, teachers and students in our local schools are respected.

They will lead to declining property values.

While declining property values might not be something Connecticut legislators care about it is something that local residents of the towns affected care about greatly and we will definitely work to defeat politicians that support them! Furthermore declining property values will lead to declining tax revenues and that should be something legislators care about.

- A MAJOR reason we moved to Wilton was for the schools and the high quality of the schools was priced into the property values.
- These bills will erode the quality and the character of our local schools, which erodes the quality of our town negatively impacting property values significantly.
- In real terms this could wipe out 30% or more of our wealth. [The legislature should not be allowed to wipe out that much wealth.](#) Any decision this huge needs to be decided by local school districts.
- *They already are* hurting our communities. The lack of clarity in these bills and the uncertainty hanging over Connecticut while these bills are

considered is discouraging new families from moving to Connecticut and encourages existing families to leave damaging home values.

They will erode the quality of our local schools.

None of these bills include even one mention of school quality. In fact for a school district like Wilton that is already one of the best I can not see any positive impact of these bills! The potential impact of larger school sizes, decreasing administrator and community engagement will destroy the unique character of Wilton schools that were the driving factor for people to move here. These bills must be defeated before they destroy school districts like Wilton's.

[Hands Off Our Schools](#)

Rejection would protect parents and teachers who want to maintain our strong voices within our local communities. Those voices have joined together to say "[Hands Off Our Schools](#)" in a growing movement made up of thousands upon thousands of families from every region of Connecticut, every background, and every walk of life. We are united by a desire to protect our local schools from the threats of forced or coerced regionalization. We want to defeat these bills and then defeat the politicians who support them. Why? Because we just want what's best for our kids.

Hardy Thomas & Mahima Kurian

Residents of Wilton, CT