

Testimony against Senator Looney, Senator Duff and Governor Lamont's proposed bills SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 which would force regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Submitted by:

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I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senator Looney, Senator Duff and Governor Lamont's proposed bills SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874 which would force regionalization of Connecticut public school. I moved to Wilton with my family primarily because of the school system. Wilton offers some of the best public school education in the country. They maintain small class sizes, engaged teachers, involved parents and an approachable Board of Ed. Taking away the local offices, combining resources with neighboring towns who may not have the same needs as Wilton, will lead to a decline in the quality of education.

My wife and brother-in-law grew up in Wilton, attending all schools K-12. We all want to see our children experience the excellence that is the Wilton school system. Our schools are the heart of the town and why people choose to move here and stay. Our taxes are high but we know how important education is. We want to know that our taxes are going to our local towns and that the decisions of how to use that money is kept at a local level, not coming from Hartford.

I am a Democrat and I am against what these bills are proposing to do to our towns and to our state. We offer some of the top public schools in the country. Changing how the school boards operate and regionalizing in any form, will have a detrimental effect on one of the main reasons people move to Wilton and to Connecticut and why they stay. Not one of these bills include one mention of school quality and that is extremely concerning. Please reconsider moving any of these bills forward. There is no evidence of actual cost savings and the ones who will suffer the most will be the children.

Thank you