

## Testimony

### Opposition to SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874 – School Regionalization

I am writing to express my concerns and strong opposition to **SB 738, 457, 874**, all of which pertain to regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

I grew up in the New Canaan school system (pre-school through grade 12) and am grateful for the outstanding public school education that this local, small-sized school district provided me. In 2004, my husband and I decided to relocate to Wilton from the Boston area so that we could raise our children in a similar public school environment. We currently have three children in grades 6, 8 and 10 and have been very pleased with their education to date.

We are both opposed to SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874 for the following reasons:

- There is no evidence that regionalization will save money. The cost of combining resources, retrofitting schools, and leveling up salaries will certainly offset any potential savings. Don't larger school districts end up having to hire more administrators, rather than less?
- Eliminating local control of schools will certainly weaken Wilton's position as one of the top schools in the state. As a small to mid-size school district, it is critical that we do everything possible to continue to attract the best teachers and administrators, who know our children personally and share our goal of maintaining the highest quality education possible.
- Student and parent engagement, so important to Wilton schools, will undoubtedly decline if the schools are regionalized. The unique nature of our school district will disappear and along with it, one of the key reasons for families to move into the state.

I want to share an example of personalized learning that Wilton schools exemplify. Last year, my son, a freshman at Wilton High School, wanted to take a second foreign language (Latin). His full academic schedule would not allow an additional course credit, but the school's assistant principal followed up with me personally to brainstorm ideas. He suggested that my son sign up for an online Latin course, and he worked with him to apply and gain acceptance into an independent study program that fit his needs. Allowing a student to flourish and expand their coursework beyond the norm is something that Wilton High School excels at, and this is why we live here. I greatly fear that opportunities for personalized learning such as this will disappear with regionalization.

In closing, I hope that you will oppose SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874 and any other effort to force consolidation of Connecticut public schools. Voluntary regionalization for extremely small schools may make sense, but **regionalization is not a "one size fits all" topic and should not be forced upon any town**. I predict that such an action would result in many families like ours leaving the state. We purposefully moved to Wilton because we wanted a smaller school district. Regionalization would defeat the point of this decision and cause us to reconsider our interest in remaining in Connecticut.

Thank you,

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