

Testimony on SB 738, 457 and 874

February 28, 2019

To the members of the hearing committee:

I thank you for your time in reading my testimony. My name is Geetesh Bhardwaj and I am an immigrant, religious minority and a parent of public-school students in Wilton CT.

I urge you to vote "no" to **Senate Bill 738: AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS, 457: AN ACT CONCERNING THE SIZE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS and 874: AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT.**

Two years back we moved to Wilton, the only reason for us to pick Wilton was the school system.

We are making a huge sacrifice to live in Connecticut. Given my daily commute, I do not get to see my kids except on the weekends. The only reason for us to stay in Connecticut is the quality of school system.

I grew up in India and always wanted to move to USA because I loved the freedom that this country provides. Forcing communities to follow the dictate of big government reminds me of the fascist policies that I tried to escape. How is forcing your will on others make us a democracy. I am not sure if I can change your minds, but I can certainly leave the state and move on.

As an immigrant the most important aspect of parenting is quality of education that we can provide to our children. If the quality of public-school system declines, we will be forced to leave the state.

None of these bills make any mention of school quality; which is the only reason for most of us to live in this state.

I urge you to say no to forced regionalization of schools.

Please contact me if I can be of help in the future on this piece of legislation.

Respectfully,

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