

February 26, 2019

To: Education Committee,

Re: SB 738, SB 457, SB 874

We moved here solely for the amazing school system and are very shocked to see the state proposing forced regionalization bills SB 738, SB 457, SB 874. We strongly oppose this.

We love our town and school system and do not want to lose any services, professionals and watch our taxes go even higher. We fundraise to make ends meet as it is and cant see how this town can take much more in taxes. Our Board of Ed and Board of selectmen work together to make the right decisions for our town. All towns are not the same and the state should not make state wide decisions on town specific school systems. Each school system faces different challenges and we need our professionals working together to make the right decisions, right here in Wilton.

Wilton real-estate has not recovered since we purchased our home as it is. Our property values will plummet even more and Wilton essentially will lose its appeal as an affordable town with great school systems in Fairfield County. We have family who has since taken Wilton off the table in their new home search because of these proposed bills. They are not alone in this and have heard many similar stories.

Instead, **I ask you to make Wilton an example of a well run town** who is already sharing the following services in town. The Board of Selectman and Board of Education have voluntarily worked together to share services, which have resulted in cost savings and cost avoidances for both.

Examples of shared services between the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education:

- Joint CFO
- Joint Facilities Director
- Police Department School Resource Officers
- Town provided pension administrative services for BOE employees not covered by the state teachers' pension plan

- Town finance staff, in lieu of consultants, currently assisting school personal with financial software transitions
- Town IS personnel, in lieu of consultants, assisted with the implementation of the school's new phone system
- Town provided school nurses
- Parks and Recreation managed external school sports fields and facilities
- Solar installations
- Shared property and liability insurance
- Shared medical claims administration
- Shared fuel purchasing
- Shared electricity agreements

Please remove forced regionalization in any of the proposed bills- SB 738 SB 457 and SB 874.

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Sent from my iPhone