

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2019

To: Education Committee

Re: Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

Hullo:

I wish to provide written testimony on my opposition to three bills: SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 or any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of CT public schools.

When we moved from Chicago four years ago, we chose Wilton, CT primarily because of its reputation for excellent schools. I have two children in the public school system, one is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and the other is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

In the four plus years, I have been thoroughly impressed with our teachers and the local school system. A bill that forces our town with a larger system will decimate the quality of education and erode the quality of our town. To be honest, the school system is one of the main drivers for out of town people to come to Wilton since we do not have beach access or other amenities of some other towns.

There is very little evidence that regionalization improves education. If these bills are just aiming for cost reductions, it's a very short term goal, one that will drive working families with kids to leave the state.

For these reasons, I hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Sincerely,

Kathy Dhanda  
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