

## **Oppose Senate Bill 457, 738, 874**

From: Mr. Xiangqun Ding (Town of Wilton, CT)

As a CT resident, I strongly oppose SB 457, 738, and 874 that would require regionalization of our schools and unfairly increase financial burdens of selective towns.

There is no sound proof in these bills can support their purposes of saving education cost. To make change to education system should not (and never should) sacrifice the high quality and standard of the education. All these bills will bring massive damages to the education systems, and then to the economies in the lovely towns in CT.

I have been attending our Wilton Town budget meetings for almost every year. Every time, I can hear many complaints about the increase of property tax, and questions about the town spending; but, every time, most of the people in the meeting, if not all of them, support our school budget. Because we all agree that our Wilton school is the core value to our town, is what we are most proud of. To take best care of our school, and give the best education to our children have been the great tradition in Wilton, and in many other towns too.

Those proposing school regionalization bills (SB 457, 738, and 874) will not only bring many negative effects to our well-established educational system, but also, they will create the risk of having our homes severely devalued, our communities devalued.

As we just entered 2019 for nearly two months, the CT public has been astonishingly surprised by the large number of bills that propose to increase various kind of taxes, and bills to propose new taxes.

The Governor's Bill 874 raised widely concerns that the government is using its power to redistribute the tax revenue. I strongly oppose it.

This bill will not only put more burdens to our town, our town residents; but also, it is simply unfair to require towns to pick up millions of dollars in teachers' pension costs without giving towns any opportunity to manage these costs.

Many local towns' governments have been doing better jobs than our state government. Over the last few years, we have seen that businesses are leaving the state, billion dollars in personal wealth has relocated, state budget deficits are growing larger, taxes continue to increase to record levels, no net job growth, prices are increasingly unaffordable.

If Governor does not change the platform / system that the state is running currently, it would be very possible that our tax money is going be poor-managed in this inefficient state government, eventually raise the state budget deficit problems into a higher level.

Actions have to be put on both side of equation, otherwise it will lose balance. If just simply thinking that tax more is the best solution, then how long you think that people who work hard to support their families, to pay taxes, to contribute to the state's economy, can bear it. Any of these three bills, if passed, can help them make decision to leave CT, which just make the CT budget deficit situation worse.

As a parent and resident of Connecticut, I strongly urge you, for the long-term prosperity of our state, please vote to oppose SB 457, 738, 874!