

To Chairmen McCorry and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874. As a parent of Wilton public school students, I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed bills SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874 and any other bill that would propose regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

My husband and I moved to Wilton 10.5 years ago. The biggest draw to the town was its reputation as one of the top school districts in the state. We could have stayed in our home in Stamford with a smaller mortgage and lower property taxes and sent our children to the private school where I taught in a neighboring town, at a discounted price. As someone who went to private school and had friends from many different towns, I had to travel to get together socially with my friends. I did not want that for my kids. I wanted my kids to go to a school where they can see their school friends on the soccer field and the town playground and see their teachers at the grocery store. We love the small town feel Wilton has provided and the nurturing, high quality education they are receiving. I'm afraid if we consolidate with another district, the quality of education will diminish (quality of education is not referenced once in any of the 3 bills) and that small town feel will be gone as well as. That's not what we signed up for, nor what we will stay here for. Our family will leave the state if regionalization is implemented as the schools are the only thing keeping us in Connecticut.

Thank you again for hearing my testimony. I hope you will oppose SB 738 , SB 457 and SB 874 and any other effort to regionalize Connecticut public schools.

Heather Dobson
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