

February 27, 2019

RE: Connecticut State Bill – **SB 738**
Connecticut State Bill – **SB 457**
Connecticut State Bill – **SB 874**

Chairmen McCrory 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.

I am writing to you as a new home-owner in Wilton, CT, who strongly opposes any form of school regionalization, either forced or “incentivized.” **Loppose SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874, as the continued quality of my children’s education is a top priority to our family and I believe these bills will have a negative impact.**

I grew up in Wilton and attended public school in town beginning in Kindergarten in 1980 through graduating from Wilton High School in 1993. I cherish the education I received in the Wilton School system and attribute my ability to attend a high-ranked university to the strong educational foundation I received in this town.

My husband, two daughters (12 and 10 years old) and I moved to Wilton this past summer from Rye, NY. A driving force behind our family’s decision to move back to the community was the strong school system and its tight knit community, which I believe are at risk with these proposed bills. Regionalizing our schools will not improve academic achievement, will not save the state a significant amount of money after implementation costs, will negatively impact students with special needs and will hurt our community. I would not have chosen to move to Connecticut if a forced regionalized school system had been implemented and I fear that many others will make that choice if the state moves forward with these bills.

I implore you to oppose SB 738, 457 and 874, and any form of school regionalization, either forced or incentivized. Please allow Wilton to continue to effectively and efficiently manage our own school system while achieving the strong academic results that have enticed so many families to move to our town.

Thank you so much for your consideration and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Best,

Kristen Doran
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