

SB 738, SB 457, SB 874

To whom it may concern

It is with shock and great alarm that I write this e-mail. Nothing, in the almost 20 years I have lived in CT, has caused me to write to elected officials about a matter I feel so strongly about. Regional consolidation of school districts is the most ill-advised proposal for fixing what ails the state's finances.

I am a first generation immigrant. I came to America because it is the land of opportunity and a bastion of capitalism. My husband and I lived in Norwalk before we had children and moved to the town of Wilton right after – **we moved for the schools**. We worked long and hard to afford a home in the town of Wilton and provide our children the opportunity for a very high quality education. We have been fortunate to have enjoyed great success in this country and community but rest assured – should this preposterous proposed bill pass, we will sell our home in Wilton (at a loss no doubt) and move to a state where socialism is not the order of the day. Is it not enough that the irresponsible decision-making of our elected officials has resulted in:

- (1) Higher taxes
- (2) Population declines in our state
- (3) Stagnant housing market
- (4) Job losses

To add insult to injury a regionalization of school districts is now being proposed? After successfully creating one of the most unfriendly environments for businesses, our lawmakers now propose doing the same for education? I will not waste your time or mine belaboring these points or providing you links to the data that support them – undoubtedly you are intimately familiar with the sorry state of Connecticut's finances. But wagering the education of children to fix the problem that has been created by mismanagement is a new low.

This is a bi-partisan e-mail. I am not a registered republican or a registered democrat and have voted for candidates based on their stance on the issues I hold most dear – sometimes that means voting democrat and at other times it means voting republican. This proposed bill will ensure:

- (1) further degradation of our education system across the state,
- (2) acceleration in migration out of the state (and it's those that can afford to move who will be the first to leave resulting in...)
- (3) further declines of state income tax revenues
- (4) Further job losses as businesses view quality of the schools in CT as low, making other states with great school districts more attractive
- (5) home price declines that will result in lower property tax revenues over time

I urge you to stop this madness immediately. Let education be managed locally, as it has been. That creates the fabric of towns like Wilton and it is what helps build and shape strong communities. Like many others, I suffered long commutes into NYC with young children at home just so they could benefit from the wonderful education they receive in the town of Wilton. The commute is inconvenient, the options for recreation in terms of restaurants and shopping are minimal compared to other towns, but

we have our wonderful schools. Focus your efforts on fixing what is broken not breaking what needs no fix.

Regards,
Farah