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As a parents of 2 kids (aged 5 and 9) in the Wilton Public schooling system, we strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced rationalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

We have considered the bills and oppose them strongly due, but not limited to, the following reasons -

- We moved here for the schools, and existing school quality is what keeps us here.
- None of these bills include any mention of School Quality.
- Erodes the quality and the character of our local schools, which erodes the quality of our town.
- We are concerned about potential impact of larger school sizes, decreasing administrator and community engagement, etc. We currently have phenomenal administrator / community engagement keeping the parents involved in the development of our children.
- Most importantly, we have had few friends re-consider their decision (or put their decision on hold till the outcome of these bills) to move into Ridgefield/Wilton communities after hearing about these proposed bills.
- Consolidation (Ex- Maine) has seen more conflicts than benefits (<https://bangordailynews.com/2017/09/23/education/10-years-later-maine-schools-still-wrestle-with-district-consolidation/>).
- If approved, this bill would only further an additional outflow of residents, many of whom came to this state for the schools, further eroding state revenue and worsening the state's fiscal crisis.
- Geographical incompatibility of the surrounding towns in Fairfield County will definitely increase transportation costs, thereby of-setting any savings offered via economies of scale and would only succeed in eliminating local control and harming school quality.
- Human costs – excessive distances the kids might have to travel adding stress in their lives.

For these reasons, I implore you for your support in opposing SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874 or any other efforts to force consolidation of Connecticut public schools

