

To. : Clerk of the Education Committee
From. : Amy E. Genkins, Wilton, CT
Date : February 26, 20219
RE. : **SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874**

Dear Ladies/Gentlemen:

I am writing to object in the strongest possible terms to the proposed bills seeking to combine Connecticut School Districts along the lines of Probate Districts. I trust I need not belabor the utter lack of congruence between the two types of Districts. Suffice it say, no one makes a decision as to where to live depending upon which Probate district they will be in. By contrast, schools are one of the primary factors going into a family's calculus of where to live. And, in many instances, families shoulder a heavy tax burden (which just got significantly greater with the new tax laws) in order to live in the school district of their choosing. They then contribute additional funds, time and energy to their neighborhood schools in order to be sure their students' needs are being met. In many communities such as Wilton, schools are at the heart of the community they serve. Sever the local nature of those schools and the fabric of the community splinters.

Connecticut has already lost much of its luster as a desirable place to live. The property values tell the story better than anything else. These bills will ensure the continued flight from the state, further deterioration of the tax base that supports schools throughout the state and will contribute considerably to the pervasive malaise already hovering over the state.

Hartford has made decision after decision that has caused degradation of life in Connecticut. I implore you not to make yet another.

Very truly yours,
Amy E. Genkins, Esq.
Wilton, CT