

Dear Legislators:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the following bills: SB 874, SB 738, and SB 457. Any state effort to force regionalization of Connecticut public schools or to penalize schools that select to remain independent is anathema to the values of Connecticut families.

As a parent of three public school students in Wilton Connecticut, I have witnessed first-hand the benefits of locally run public schools. The residents of our town are highly engaged with the schools and the Board of Education, and as a result we enjoy a district with not only strong academic results but also an environment where teacher engagement is high, individualized student learning is the norm, and progress is continuous. We are engaged in the budgeting process and understand the costs and benefits when we vote to approve or amend the finances of our school and our town. Our schools are what makes us a community.

While economies of scale may appear attractive from a fiscal standpoint, this bill puts at risk our most precious asset as a community and as a state - the quality of our schools. If approved, this bill would lead to an outflow of residents, many of whom came to this state for the schools, further eroding state revenue and worsening the state's fiscal crisis.

Local control is essential to support our schools which are the most valuable resource our community shares. For these reasons, I implore you to oppose SB 874, SB 738, and SB 457 - or any other efforts to force consolidation of Connecticut public schools.

Amy R Gettler

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