

To Whom This May Concern,

As a parent of four public school students in Wilton, CT, I strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874, and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

The reason my family moved to Wilton in 2004 was the Wilton school system. We have had children in all of the Wilton schools, and the quality of their education has been and continues to be excellent. Furthermore, my four children are different types of learners, each with a very unique social-emotional make-up. The Wilton Public Schools have been amazing at helping all four of them reach great academic heights by honing in on their strengths and interests, and closely monitoring and improving their weaknesses.

The teachers and administrators at the Wilton public schools work hard to support each student individually. They create a structured nurturing environment where kids can become independent learners. The Wilton public school system has fostered a love for learning in all of my children. The quality of our public schools is what has kept us here in Wilton for fifteen years. It is what keeps us in Connecticut.

I fear that this will no longer be the case with any forced regionalization of Connecticut schools. There is no empirical evidence that forced regionalization would improve the quality of our schools. In fact, none of these bills include one mention of school quality! How could forced regionalization possibly work for two or more communities with vastly different populations and curriculum needs? The quality of education would catastrophically change, and with the increase in bureaucracy and decrease in community decision-making and engagement, it would erode the quality of our town. The people who moved to Wilton for the schools will leave. Families are already leaving because of the current business climate in the Connecticut. If you force regionalization and consolidation at this time when residents are leaving, you will do irrevocable damage to our schools, the one thing keeping families in Connecticut. Then where will your tax base be?

In closing, I implore you to oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools. Any forced regionalization would be detrimental to the students and to all of the citizens (your constituents) in Wilton, and it would be detrimental to the entire state of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Lauren Slater Gibbons
Wilton, CT

