

Sonal Gupta
33 Powder Horn Hill Road
Wilton CT 06897

As a parent of 2 kids (aged 7 years and 11 years) 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.

I have read the bills in detail, and I strongly oppose it due to following reasons.

- **We moved from Stamford to Wilton just because of what the town had to offer in terms of education, even though it adds delays to my work commute.**
- **None of these bills include say anything about improving education 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 have phenomenal administrator / community engagement currently that keep the parents involved in the development of our children.**
- **Most importantly, we have had few friends re-consider their decision to move into Ridgefield/Wilton communities after hearing about these proposed bills.**
- **Towns that consolidated (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.**
- **We are certain that the geographical incompatibility of the surrounding towns in Fairfield County alone would increase transportation costs, thereby negating any savings offered via economies of scale and would only succeed in eliminating local control and harming school quality.**

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

Thanks,
Sonal Gupta