

[EDtestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:EDtestimony@cga.ct.gov)

Re: School Regionalization  
SB 457, SB 738, and SB 874

Dear Legislators of the Connecticut General Assembly:

I am writing to voice my fervent opposition to the public school regionalization measures proposed in SB 457, 738, and 874.

My wife and I moved to Wilton from Stamford four years ago, with our then 2 year old daughter and 7 month old son. We saved every penny we could for the down payment on our home, knowing that Wilton's excellent public school system would nurture our children and allow them every opportunity to grow to their full potential. We didn't think they would get that in Stamford. We were very aware of the school system rankings that are published annually, and we relied on them for our decision.

Wilton's excellent schools were the #1 reason for our move. My wife now commutes 2 hours each way to downtown Manhattan, a sacrifice she made for Wilton and these schools. We stretch our budget as far as we can for our mortgage and tax payments, a sacrifice we're making to be in Wilton, for WILTON public schools. Here, we feel we get value for our tax dollar. In Stamford we did not.

Norwalk public schools has been the district most often mentioned as the "partner" for Wilton in any regionalization. I fear that Norwalk does not have the same quality of teachers, staff, or educational values, plainly evidenced by the school rankings from the likes of Niche and US News. I had the chance 4 years ago to move to Norwalk. I didn't, because of the schools. I refuse to accept them now, just as I did then.

People move to Wilton (and similarly situated surrounding towns) for the schools. People will leave if we lose them. It's a main reason people stay in the state. What reason will we have if you ruin the one thing keeping us here? Property value will be destroyed. People's biggest lifetime investment will be destroyed. There has got to be a more sensible way to achieve these goals without devastating people's families, investments, and lives.

I implore you to stop the progress of these bills now. My wife and I have worked hard to be able to give our children this life. Please vote to discontinue discussion on these bills, and terminate them as soon as possible.

Thank you,  
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