

Testimony regarding bills: SB 874, SB 457 and SB 738

My name is Rose Havron and I am writing the legislature to voice my opposition to SB 457,738, 874, 7150 and any other forms or studies of mandated school regionalization.

As a Wilton resident with over 40 years of human resources experience in large corporations, I was often charged with relocating employees and their families. I can tell you that the quality of the school system is typically the main factor in a family's decision to relocate. Right now, the Wilton schools are a primary attraction for families moving and staying in Wilton. Regionalization will reduce the quality of our schools. It will increase class sizes, create unnecessary upheaval for children and parents and mental stress for teachers and all those involved. My neighbors state they moved here and are willing to pay the high real estate taxes because of the schools. Now they talk about where they will move if these bills go through. When the school system is no longer an attraction, housing prices go down and the downward spiral continues and affects everyone - young and old.

I worked for a large pharmaceutical corporation in West Haven that relocated its entire operation out of the state because of Connecticut's anti-business regulations. At one time this company employed over 3,000 people. If you want to help stop the continued financial downward spiral we're in, focus on the real problems: the flight of people and businesses out of this state and the enormous ever-increasing state employee health and retirement benefits.

Additionally, I oppose all three bills because there is no reason to force or coerce towns with well performing schools, receiving little to no financial support from the state to merge their school districts. Stop wasting our taxes on proposals that do more harm than good.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rose Havron
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