

27 February 2019

To the Education Committee of the State of Connecticut,  
in regards to our family's  
**opposition to SB-738, SB-457 + SB-874**

We live in lovely Wilton, Connecticut.

The last of our three children is now in college after graduating from Wilton High School in 2016. One of the reasons we chose Wilton a few decades ago is for the strong public school system. The town's residents, volunteers and school administration have worked hard over many generations to build this valuable resource because this community puts a very high value on providing a quality education. It is the most important gift we give our children so we chose this town with that priority in mind. We don't want that to change for the families that have recently made the same choice.

Over the past few weeks, we have researched the stated pros and cons for the proposed forced regionalization of Connecticut's public schools -- possible cost savings and efficiencies, the combining of administrative resources, the impact of larger school sizes and decreased community engagement, the threat of residents leaving this town and the state, and more). After consideration and much conversation, we strongly oppose all of the proposed bills. Our local state senator, representative and First Selectwoman agree. So does the newly elected Governor, as per a meeting in a neighboring town just this week.

The idea of forced regionalization of Connecticut's public schools doesn't appear to have any support in our community whatsoever. It is overwhelmingly opposed by people in both political parties. There is a vocal outpouring of concern over the idea. Therefore, my family respectfully asks that you oppose bills 738, 457 + 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization.

Sincerely,

Pamela Hovland  
Steven Lawrence

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