

February 23, 2019

Dear Education Committee,

I am writing you in regards to proposed bills that call for school regionalization:

- PSB-454/738
- PSB-457
- PSB-874

I strongly disagree with these proposed bills. As a tax-paying resident of Wilton, I am opposed to school district consolidation.

I moved to Wilton due to the highly praised reputation of the Wilton school district so my daughter could get a high quality education. These proposed bills would effectively reduce the quality of education she would receive, and consequently, reduce the property value of my home.

Research by the National Education Policy Center concluded that benefits from school district consolidation are “vastly overestimated.” It has been reported that financial benefits may be found only when consolidation of very small districts (fewer than 300 to 1,000 students) occurs. The Wilton school district is not one of these “very small districts”.

The Governor’s proposed budget bill SB 874 calls for a surcharge for towns like Wilton that pay teacher salaries that exceed the state median. The Governor’s plan does not account for higher costs of living in Wilton, or on a bigger scheme, areas such as Fairfield County.

The cumulative effect of all of these proposed bills calling for school regionalization would be an increase in property taxes for residents of Wilton and a reduced quality educational system. Therefore, I am asking you to vote **AGAINST** these proposed bills.

Sincerely,

Salina Johnson
Resident of Wilton, CT
Salina1114@gmail.com