

Dear Legislator,

As a parent of public school students, I strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

The Government has miserably failed to attract corporations and maintain fiscal discipline, these kinds of reactive legislations are not only detrimental for the future of our children, but they reflect poorly on our state and I hope the legislators are more thoughtful and judicious in their approach. Their time is better spent in trying to improve the finances of the state by attracting corporations and being more business friendly. The above legislations are aiding in further deterioration of our state and reflect poorly on our legislators who are looking clueless.

We moved to the beautiful school district of Wilton, CT in January 2013 from Dallas, Texas primarily for the schools, and existing school quality is what keeps us here. We believe that the bills erode the quality and the character of our local schools, which erodes the quality of our town, I am gravely concerned about the potential impact of larger school sizes, decreasing administrator and community engagement. There is evidence that the proposed bills are already preventing people from coming to CT, or is driving decisions of people to leave CT.

Research by the National Education Policy Center concluded that benefits from school district consolidation are "vastly overestimated." Further, an article in Education Finance and Policy suggested that district consolidation may actually create negative impacts such as higher transportation costs, a "leveling up" of salaries, and more negative attitudes among staff members and parents. The same study suggests that financial benefits may be found only when consolidation of very small districts (fewer than 300 to 1000 students) occurs.

I hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Please do something that your kids and family feel proud of you and your conscious let you sleep at night.

Regards,

Raju Kakarlapudi

Wilton, CT