

February 24, 2019

Dane and Jennifer Knudsen
22 Wilton Hunt Rd
Wilton, CT 06897
727-244-9564
dane_knudsen@yahoo.com

Re: Connecticut Senate Bills 454/738, 457, 874; School Regionalization

Dear Governor Ned Lamont and Senator Martin Looney, et al:

As parents of two children that attend Wilton public schools, we vehemently oppose Senate Bills 454/738, 457 and 874 that would require regionalization of our schools.

We moved from Florida to Connecticut in 2018 and selected Wilton as our home specifically for the quality of schools. **Having recently moved from a large school district in FL, we've immediately noticed the benefits of smaller, locally-run schools such as those in Wilton.** Our kids are receiving a higher quality education with more personal attention to their specific needs.

Stripping local control of schools will irreversibly change the character of our town, and there is no proof that school regionalization improves the quality of education for smaller districts. Additionally, the cost of combining resources, retrofitting schools, leveling up salaries, and sorting through legal obligations will offset any assumed cost savings.

Of significant concern as well is the proposal to require municipalities to fund a portion of teacher pension costs due to years of fiscal mismanagement at a state level. Even more shocking to us is the proposal for a surcharge for towns like Wilton that pay teacher salaries that exceed the state median, with no consideration for higher costs of living. **It's these kind of policies that continue to drive residents out of the state of Connecticut.**

Please listen to the voices of your constituents as we strongly urge you to oppose SB 454/738, 457, and 874.

Sincerely,

Dane and Jennifer Knudsen

Cc:
Senator Bob Duff
Senator Will Haskell
Representative Gail Lavielle
Representative Tom O'Dea
Representative Robert Sanchez
Representative Kathleen McCarty
Senator Eric Berthel