

As a future parent of a public school student, and a former public school student myself, I am writing to oppose the following three bills: SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874, and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public schools. Growing up in CT, I saw my parents do without a lot of things for themselves to make sure that my sister and I grew up in a thriving school district and community. My husband and I have done the same for our son, who is just 9 months old. We have worked really hard to move him to one of the top districts in the state because we want what we deem best for him. Wilton is known for its schools: the family like feel, the smaller class sizes, and the fact that there is one school for each grade point.

We hope that these bills will be looked at in dismissed with hopes that Connecticut Schools will not be disrupted. The schools are what make CT stand out amongst neighboring communities, and why people move to certain parts of the state. My fear is that these bills will disrupt the small town feel that many people come to expect and find comfort in. If these bills pass, what will it all mean? Will class sizes increase? Will teachers in regionalized districts need to change where they teach? How many students will they teach? How will this come into play with curriculum? Sports? What research has been done to make this seem like a good idea? From where I am standing, it seems that CT does not really have a lot going for it in the grand scheme of things (high taxes, possible tolls, etc.) so why mess with one of the main reasons people stay here: education?

My husband is in the process of looking for another job, and over the last 5 years, we have decided to stay here, in CT, with family, and with the best schools in the country. If this bill passes, we will look to leave.

In closing, I hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door for forced regionalization in Connecticut Public schools.

Christie Koolis
Wilton, CT