

To Whom it may concern,

It is crucial for elected officials to hear from and listen to their constituents. As such, we expect to be two of many who will write to express our opposition to bills recently proposed by Senator Looney and Senator Duff – **SB 738**, **SB 457** and **SB 874** – which would force regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

As parents of public school students in Wilton, we have directly witnessed the benefits of locally-run public schools. Our children are educated in an environment where teacher engagement is high, individualized student learning is understood, and high achievement is praised.

Though some might argue in favor of economies of scale, this would be a severely misguided application. This bill attacks our most precious asset – the quality of our schools. We are among the numerous families who moved to our town from out of state for the schools. If approved, this bill would only increase the number of residents who do the opposite of what we did – leaving the state, which would further erode state revenue and worsen the state's fiscal crisis.

In addition, the geographical incompatibility of surrounding towns in Fairfield County alone would increase transportation costs. That's on top of combining other resources which, upon further examination, would likely prove more expensive.

Most important, however, is the negative impact of larger schools, which will decrease administrator, teacher, and community engagement. These bills are missing the key point – they do nothing but harm the quality of our schools.

It is crucial that you support our opposition of SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874 or any other efforts to force consolidation of Connecticut public schools. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dan & Laurie Masonson

Wilton, CT