

27 February 2019

Re: Opposition to SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874

Dear Chairmen McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony on SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874.

I am writing to state my opposition to SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874. As Wilton residents, we pay a great deal in local taxes and receive very little in services compared to neighboring towns – we have no beaches like Westport and Norwalk, no garbage pickup like Norwalk, no municipal golf course and free concerts like Ridgefield. What we do get in return are top-notch schools. That's why we moved here and that's why we pay the local taxes. It is why we have made a life here, rather than moving to a lower-cost, better-managed state.

Turning the Wilton School System into a Regional School System will not only further depress the value of our home (which is today not worth what we paid for it in 2006), it will remove the primary reason that we choose to live here.

I've read the reasons for Regionalization – cost-savings and improving educational equity among towns. Both are good aims. I heard Governor Lamont's call to implement a shared services model among towns, where practical, as means to reduce overhead. This is a good idea – providing that it stops there.

Regarding improving educational equity, there has been no evidence presented indicating this would improve educational outcomes. Nor do any of these bills include any mention of school quality.

Looking at the bills and thinking about my school district and the region, I do not believe that regionalization would be beneficial for our students, for our schools, for our community and for residents of Connecticut. Forced school regionalization will deter new families from moving to CT and will encourage people to leave CT – both of which negatively impact the economic rehabilitation of our state.

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

Respectfully,



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