

Strongly Opposing SB738, SB 457 and SB 874

To our Connecticut Education Committee and Legislators:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874, the bills to force regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

My husband and I are immigrants from the Philippines. We individually moved to the US more than a decade ago, leaving our families behind and not knowing anybody here. We've worked our way up the corporate ladder, worked long hours even during weekends, so we can build a good life here. We met along the way, got married and had children. That was the point when my husband and I had to deeply think about what future we want for our family. And we chose Wilton to be our new home as it is known to be a small town that has a close-knit community and stellar school system. It wasn't the easiest and most practical choice as it would mean a higher mortgage and longer commute for my husband (almost 2 hours each way!). But after weighing all the pros and cons, it was the best decision we have made for our family. All of the long hours of work and commute time (time taken away from our children) will be worth it knowing that we are providing them the best education that we give them and also a safe, loving and welcoming environment to grow up in.

And I believe that passing the bill to regionalize the school district/system and taking away the local control of our school will negatively impact our community. The Wilton school system has been successful due to its smaller structure and the people from the community are hands on when it comes to running our schools. Consolidating school districts, as studies have shown, doesn't guarantee cost savings and doesn't improve the quality of education. It will do more harm than good.

I hope for your sincere consideration of opposing these bills.

Respectfully yours,

Claire Morales-Raguindin

Town of Wilton