

To: edtestimony@cga.ct.gov

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

I am writing to request that the Legislature reject the three proposed bills SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 seeking to impose regionalization on our local public school systems and any other bill that will open the door to forced regionalization of the Connecticut Public Schools.

I am a lifelong Connecticut resident and a recent resident of Wilton. Like many other parents in Wilton - my wife and I uprooted from other towns and moved to Wilton to afford our children an excellent public school system. Our community is built around our quality local schools, which are well managed already and do not need forced, incremental or any other form of regionalization.

In all candor, when I think of these proposed bills I become incensed. I see no countervailing arguments in favor of this proposed legislation and these bills only confirm my suspicions that the proponents of this legislation have no regard (if not outright contempt) for the residents of small towns like Wilton.

If you pass any of these bills on the road to regionalization - you will ensure accelerated decline in Wilton and other similarly situated towns which provide a disproportionate amount of the revenue to our state government. You would be hurting the very towns in Fairfield County that the State of Connecticut relies on so heavily year after year.

Many of us have resisted the calls from our friends to move and leave Connecticut for more dynamic states. The state has an anemic economy, high tax burden and crumbling infrastructure. These are undeniable facts.

Like many mothers and fathers in my town, I have become resigned to the steady decline in the quality of life in Connecticut. What keeps me in Wilton is the community and school system and it is the only justification for enduring three hour daily commutes to work on an embarrassingly decrepit metro north commuter train line.

Frankly, if these bills go through - Westchester County and Long Island become attractive alternatives because of their excellent school systems and many of us will move even if it means taking losses on our homes.

Your responsibility in the Legislature is to make Connecticut more competitive and attractive as a place to live and work. These proposed bills do the complete opposite. They antagonize communities like Wilton and will have a direct and further adverse impact on our local economy and property values.

I respectfully request that you reject these ill-conceived bills SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874.

Sincerely,

Alexander D Pencu
Wilton, CT