

Bill Numbers: SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874

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Town: Wilton, CT

I am writing this letter in opposition of the bill SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874. As a longtime resident of Connecticut, I am very concern about the 3 bills being introduced to regionalize schools in small/medium size town in CT. It seems to me that the bills are planning to force the regionalization of school districts which seems wrong. I believe this should be done optionally and with the process that the people in the district can vote whether they want to be combined with other bigger school district.

Also from reading various news literatures, these bills proposal are very vague on how combining school district will help cut cost. I would think that it will add more cost to CT tax payer and will affect CT negatively.

Here's the reason:

- 1) Combining school districts will most likely create several positions for high paying district principal. This can easily be seen when corporation merge that there will be more high paying managerial position open/added while the cut will be on lower level positions. At the end, there won't be much cost saving or it may actually add more cost.
- 2) Many residents of Connecticut who commute to New York City may decide to move across state line if they are unsure about the education system changes in CT. Many families stay in CT because of the quality of education that their town provided. Without that, some will prefer shorter more convenient commute.
- 3) Regarding cost saving from negotiating power, I don't see that combining school district will helps. When the school districts get bigger, there may be less number of vendors that can support the volume that big, so there will be less choice. If the negotiation is done more locally to smaller vendors, then it is back as what we already have. So I don't see how there will be any cost benefit.

Regards,

Taniya Pirapokin