

Lorien & Todd Saumier
3 Henry Austin Drive
Wilton, CT 06897

February 24, 2019

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

Dear Elected CT Legislative officials,

As parents of public school students in Wilton, CT, we strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the potential to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools. We further oppose any proposed budget or bill that penalizes towns that do not regionalize through reduced funding from the state.

We chose to make Wilton our home for the past 18 years for the schools and quality of education and accessibility is what has kept us here. It is our understanding that there is little to no empirical evidence to validate that such a move actually leads to cost savings but rather has resulted in higher transportation fees, leveling salaries and a lot of negativity – none of these are appealing to us. In fact, for our family, it will push us out of CT as we already pay NY and CT taxes due to employment and it will surely impact our property value which is already significantly below what we paid to live here.

In short, these bills will backfire. Our state is already unappealing and ranks one of the top five states to have residents leaving, rather than new residents.

We are additionally opposed to the Governor's proposal to require municipalities to fund a portion of teacher pension costs and to impose surcharges to Wilton to pay teacher salaries that exceed the state median.

We hope that you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874 and any other legislation that involves forced regionalization of schools or imposes financial penalties on those school districts that do not regionalize under a voluntary plan.

Sincerely,

Lorien & Todd Saumier
Parents to Andrew – 11th grade, Norah 8th grade