

Hi, my name is Austin Tupper and I am a Sophomore at Wilton High School. I am here to voice my opposition to Bill numbers SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other legislation that includes forced school regionalization in our schools.

Wilton schools are challenging, but I know I am lucky to go to school here and I have learned a lot. My guidance counselor and teachers give individualized attention to the students who need it as best they can. They are always available to me and they respond quickly to emails. And with low teacher to student ratios, it's easier to get individualized help from them. If there were more kids in the classes, individual help would be much harder to get, and school would be much harder for me than it already is.

I enjoy doing group projects, but with bigger classes, group projects would be a nightmare. Either the groups would be too large, or too numerous, and presentations would go on for days. So, they would likely not do as many group projects, and I would hate that.

I play trumpet in the band and it's pretty big already. If there were even more kids, then it would either be way too big, or less people would join it. Either way, the quality would go way down no matter how hard the group worked at it.

Another concern is how everyone would get to school. The busses would be really crowded and we'd have to go farther distances, so it would take a lot longer to get to and from school every day. And because of how many people already drive to school, the student parking lot wouldn't be near big enough for all the cars, and more people would have to take the crowded buses.

I've had to work hard to get the grades I've been making, for a long time. They're not necessarily great because Wilton schools are harder than most, but I know that colleges will take that into consideration and that they like students from Wilton because we work hard. So that will help me get into a good college.

The amount of homework we get is the largest problem I have in keeping my grades high, but next year, they are changing the class schedules to help with that and I'm looking forward to being able to do better. So because of that, for me, the next two years of high school will be even better. I'll learn a lot more and get an increasingly better education. If we have to merge with Norwalk, the quality of my education is going to decrease significantly, and it would be so much harder to learn anything, because of less contact with the teachers that's needed to keep my grades up and many other things like that.

I know my parents sacrifice a lot and work hard for me to be in such a good school. It's important to me too that I get the best education that I can, and I don't want the quality of my school to go down. Please vote against any Bills that would redistrict our schools without our consent.

It matters to me. Thank you.

