

Chairmen McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874.

My husband and I moved to Wilton, CT two and a half years ago. We selected Wilton because of the quality of the schools and the reputation of the community as a great place to raise our children. In our short time here, our children have thrived in the Wilton school environment. Schools should remain locally controlled by the people who best understand our kids.

We oppose SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874 and more broadly, we oppose any forced regionalization of our schools.

I work in Finance and understand the budget challenges that face the state. If you implement a system of forced regionalization, you will drive people out of our great state. The schools are what are keeping people in CT. Driving people out of the state will raise taxes for those who remain, and then it will become cost prohibitive for many families to continue to live in CT. Please drop this initiative and let's look for other ideas to solve the challenges we face.

Thank you for again for hearing my testimony.

Sincerely,

Jeff and Julie Unruh

Wilton, CT