

February 28, 2019

I am strongly opposed to SB 738, SB 457, SB 874 and any other legislation that promotes forced school regionalization both directly and by "incentives" that threaten the loss of state funds if schools fail to regionalize. My husband and I moved to Wilton, CT from NYC in 2013 because of the quality of the schools. We currently have our two children enrolled in the Wilton Public School system – one in Kindergarten and the other in fourth grade. We hope to stay here for many more years, but we likely will not be doing that if legislation like the above-mentioned bills pass.

Forcing regionalization threatens to degrade education quality and to negatively impact our town's economy, as well as Connecticut's economy overall. My family and others like us would leave the state for other regions, taking our tax dollars with us. The cost of living is high here, as are the taxes, but the reason we chose Wilton despite of this is because of its public schools.

I hope that you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874 and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools in any manner. This includes withholding state funding from schools, or effectively penalizing schools that choose not to regionalize.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Volavka", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicole Volavka
74 Belden Hill Road
Wilton, CT 06897