

February 26th, 2019

Dear Education Committee;

I am a parent of a first grader in the Wilton school system and I STRONGLY oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 as well as ANY other bill that allows forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools!

My husband and I moved to Wilton, CT from NYC when I was pregnant with my daughter specifically for its reputation of having a great school system and a close-knit community that highly values the quality of its public education.

I am also the daughter of two generations of teachers on both sides of my family including my mother who was a special education teacher for over 30 yrs., both of my grandparents and my step mother who had been a principal of an elementary school and now runs educational programs both for teachers during the school year as well as an enrichment program over the summer for students in the Boston area.

Needless to say, I have a great deal of respect for teachers, especially those who have dedicated their lives to teaching all kinds of students with all kinds of needs. I know firsthand that they are significantly underpaid and underappreciated for the noble and tireless work they do.

Since I was raised by teachers, I was also raised to highly value a good education. We can't use a "one size fits all" approach to teaching and we can't allow the state to determine what is best for our children in our local schools that is a job for our teachers not our politicians. I believe that forced regionalization will significantly decrease the quality of education in our town at the same time it will increase costs and overall economic uncertainty in our community.

I want my daughter to continue to thrive in the exceptional school system in our town that attracted us to move here in the first place! I strongly 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.

Sincerely,

Tammy Ward

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