

My name is Juan Wen, a Wilton resident. I am writing this written testimony to express my strong opposition and concerns against the idea of forced school regionalization. Recently, there were three bills-SB 874, SB 457 and SB 738 proposed for this topic. Unlike the two bills proposed by Senator Looney (SB 738) and Senator Duff (SB 457), the bill (SB 874) proposed by Gov. Lamont seemed to be drafted in more details. However, in my opinion, the three bills shared the same purpose of using forced school regionalization to achieve the local tax sharing goal. This is unfair. Sharing is not always caring but spoiling.

As a parent, I know a good school system is the root of our children's future. Regionalization schools will cause decreased quality of education and loss of local control. We are the residents who pay property tax to support our local school system, our voices need to be heard and our needs should be considered.

As a resident of Wilton, school system is the soul of this small community. We moved to Wilton because of the schools six years ago from California. Now our property value and business uncertainty will be impacted negatively by any proposals like those three bills. I want to ask the legislators the same question as State Rep. Gail Lavielle here, " why would you touch a district that is doing very well and is getting little to no money from the state?" Please put your hands off from schools.

Last but not the least, the three bills will cause increased taxes and increased cost. For example, the committee "COSSS" mentioned in Gov. Lamont's bill (SB 874), what is funding source for the operation of this committee. Whose voices will this committee listen to? When more and more families are moving out from Connecticut, the ultimate harm will fall on the local and state taxes.

Your consideration will be highly appreciated.

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