

Testimony against Senator Looney, Senator Duff and Governor Lamont's proposed bills SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 which would force regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Submitted by:

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I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senator Looney, Senator Duff and Governor Lamont's proposed bills SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874 which would force regionalization of Connecticut public school. As someone who was raised in Wilton and attended all K-12, I can attest for the quality of education I received. Class sizes were small, teachers were engaged, parents were involved and there was a sense that our voices were heard at the local level. Taking away the local offices, positions and combining districts will lead to the quality of education to suffer.

My children are not yet old enough to attend the public schools at 3 ½ years and 9 months. It is heartbreaking to think they will not ever have the quality of education we moved to Wilton specifically for. I moved back to Wilton to raise a family and we are willing to pay high taxes *because* of the public school system Wilton has. Our schools are the heart of our town. When I attended a private liberal arts college, many of my classmates had come from private and boarding schools. I was proud to have attended one of the best public school systems in the country. There was never once that I didn't feel I was prepared for or had the tools for any class or any discussion. This is a direct result of teachers and administration that help guide me for 18 years. I want to be able to give my children the same experience.

I am a Democrat and I am against what these bills are proposing to do to our towns and to our state. We offer some of the top public schools in the country. Changing how the school boards operate and regionalizing in any form, will have a detrimental effect on one of the main reasons people move to Wilton and to Connecticut and why they stay. Not one of these bills include one mention of school quality and that is extremely concerning. Please reconsider moving any of these bills forward. There is no evidence of actual cost savings and the ones who will suffer the most will be the children.

Thank you