February 28, 2019

Regarding:
HB #7150 - AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR’S BUDGET
RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING EDUCATION

Dear Chairmen McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and
Distinguished Members of the Education Committee

Thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony. I am writing to state my
strong opposition to HB 7150.

Of particular concern is Section 6 B(1) Line 591-598 which will require non-distressed
municipalities to contribute 25% of the plan’s normal (current teacher) contribution, plus
1% for every 1% the municipality’s average teachers’ salary exceed the state median
pensionable salary.

Since Wilton’s average teachers’ salary exceeds the mean by 25%, Wilton’s total share
will be 50% of the normal, and that translates into three-year phase-in costs of
$463,000, $956,000 and $1,389,000, starting in FY ended 2022.

I am against mandating ANY municipalities to pay for these annual contributions
because it will create gaps in the municipal budgets and ultimately result in a further
increase in property taxes.

Secondly, local school districts negotiate teachers’ salaries, but they do not negotiate
the terms of their pensions as this is something that is done by the State. To ask ANY
municipalities to pay for pension in which we have no control or say is akin to taxation
without representation and therefore is grossly unfair to all residents.

I therefore strongly urge you to oppose HB #7150. Thank you for considering my
written testimony.

Respectfully,

Jennie Wong
Wilton, CT