

02/27/2019

Dear Messers Chairmen and Commitee members,

I am Joshua Alix and I am eleven years old. I address you today to ask that you oppose the proposed Senate Bill 457: An Act Concerning The Size Of School Districts. This bill may have the stated purpose of creating larger school districts, but for what purpose? When these districts are created, you will have hundreds, if not thousands of students per grade level. It will be inevitable that many small schools will close, in favor of consolidating the students into a larger group. As these schools disappear, teaching and staff positions would be eliminated. The classrooms would have more students for each teacher, and with this I worry: How will I learn my classmate's names, or for that matter, how will the teachers remember MY name? Right now, my grade size is about 30 students, spread between two classrooms. A day does not go by when my teacher doesn't call on me to answer, or greet me by name, or keep track of what I am doing (or not doing). I believe that if the proposed bill 457 goes forward, I will lose the opportunities that are now given to me, like personal attention from teachers, a sense of belonging to a community where everyone knows each other and greets each other by name, extra help from my own teachers during school hours, and the opportunity for each of my classmates to be recognized by the whole school community for an accomplishment. I worry that I may fall through the cracks of this supersized education system that the proposed bill wishes to create. How many layers of administrative staff will my mom have to go through to speak with someone who can make a difference in my personal school experience? With thousands of students, how will one student who falls one lesson behind be noticed enough to get the help he or she needs to catch up? I believe that our best way forward would be to keep our school districts as localized as possible, giving the students, teachers, and parents more opportunity to make a difference in our educational environment.

Messers Chairmen and commitee members, right now I am the second child onto my bus in the morning, and it takes me thirty five minutes to get to school. If the proposed regional school districts go through, my bus stop would be at the far edge of the new district. How long will my new bus ride be? An hour, maybe more? How much time are you willing to take away from families every morning and afternoon to create this new efficient education system?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Joshua Alix
Lyme, CT