

2/28/19

TO: Connecticut General Assembly's Education Committee

RE OPPOSITION TO:

---Senate Bill 457 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SIZE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

As someone who attended Lyme-Old Lyme schools from elementary school through high school, I am completely in opposition to these bills. We pride ourselves on our schools in Lyme and Old Lyme. They not only give, and have given, generations of children an exceptional education, they do it within budget, and without time-wasting bureaucracy and red tape.

I haven't seen any data to back up real cost savings or quality improvements that would be the result of requiring a minimum student body for a school district. All the input I have seen and listened to indicate that such a move would be totally inappropriate for Region 18. It would take away organizational power from the current board and remove the ability to customize education to a local population; it would cost a great deal more money to bus students (as well as adding time to the school day and stress to the students); it would increase class size to the detriment of education, and it would remove the feeling of a 'small town', a major benefit of living in this area.

We have regionalized those services which make sense, and will continue to look at such options in the future, but it makes no sense to make this across the board change.

Please don't ruin what we have spent so many years and volunteer hours building for the sake of pie-in-the-sky savings.

In short -- keep your hands off our schools!

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