

Comments re:

Senate Bill 457 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SIZE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Senate Bill 738 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Governor's Bill SB 874 AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT

Dear Members of the Education Committee:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the above bills which would drastically change the educational landscape in the towns of Lyme and Old Lyme where we already have a regional school district which is excelling as it is currently designed. Keeping decisions regarding education at the local level is in the best interest of our children. The students of Region 18 School District thrive given the smaller and more personal nature of our schools – teachers truly get the chance to get to know the needs of every student thus enabling them to engage in tailored approaches to best meet individual needs. The students, in turn, also form trusted relationships with their teachers and are more comfortable participating in class and seeking guidance when needed. In smaller school districts, parents and students also have more opportunity to partner with administrators, another essential component in fostering excellence. Year after year, the achievements of Region 18 students are consistently above the bar both inside and outside of the classroom. Like most families who live in Lyme or Old Lyme, we chose where to live based on education. We chose smaller schools because that's an environment where we felt our children could reach their full potential. Forcing our students to assimilate into a larger school system where they are likely to be just a number would be a complete disservice and counterproductive. The future of our state and our country will lie in the hands of these children. It is our duty to provide them the best education possible so they can rise to the challenge.

Tammy Kaye

Old Lyme, CT