

My name is Jacqueline Malizia, and I am a 16 year old junior at Lyme-Old Lyme High School in Region 18. I am testifying in regard to Senate Bill 457, Senate Bill 738, and Governor's Bill SB 874. I lived in Fairfield for the first few years of my life, and my parents moved my then baby sister and me to Old Lyme in order to live in a safe and close-knit community and provide us with great schooling. I have spent the entirety of my schooling years in Lyme-Old Lyme and, by looking outside of our district, I have come to realize how lucky each and every student is to be able to attend this school.

This school, and the entire region, create an experience unlike any other high school in which we create connections with almost all of our teachers and peers and are able to receive an individualized education. By redistricting, one option would be to send all of these kids to larger public schools, in which they would no longer receive this kind of experience. As if that isn't bad enough, it could be detrimental for children to move from a district with the opportunities that Old Lyme has to one in which there will be more kids than some students will know how to handle, and many of the opportunities would no longer be available to them.

As I see it, I don't understand how this bill would save any money whatsoever. If children are not moved to already existing high schools, newer and larger high schools would have to be built, immediately adding a large cost. Not only that, but busses would become more expensive and taxes would have to increase. Due to these added expenses, I don't see how this plan would be a money saver.

Although I probably wouldn't be attending this school anymore by the time this bill would be passed, I have three younger siblings in the district who would be heavily affected by this legislation, and I feel as though all of the district would suffer from such a change. I hope that you are able to see the negative effect that this would have on this town and it's students and consider these points when coming to a decision.

Jacqueline Malizia  
Lyme-Old Lyme High School Junior