

From: Abigail Block [abigail.block@yahoo.com](mailto:abigail.block@yahoo.com)  
Subject: Governor's Bill SB 874 Senate Bill 457 Senate Bill 738  
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To: [edtestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:edtestimony@cga.ct.gov)

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To whom it may concern,

The following three proposals; Governor's Bill SB 874, Senate Bill 457, Senate Bill 738 represent utter folly for the state of Connecticut. Passing any or all of these bills into law would have a hugely negative impact not only on our children's education, but also on our state as a whole.

I am a mother of two young children currently attending grade school at Lyme Consolidated in Lyme. My youngest currently has his own IEP in place which has not only helped him make huge advances in his learning, but is the main reason he is attending school at all. He suffers from extreme anxiety and his ability to attend a small, local school, with such open and caring teachers is beyond important. The relationships he has created with his teachers have taken this young boy from a child who would not attend school or walk through the halls without his mother (I attended kindergarten with him every day for three months), to a young boy who not only has blossomed into a real student, but who also gets on and off the bus by himself, walks freely and happily through the halls, and performs on stage in front of the whole school. Who comes home happy and proud of everything he accomplishes in school during the day. This type of growth would never occur in an over crowded school who's teachers aren't able to create real and lasting bonds with their students because of overcrowding. My son would have been left to fend for himself . Been kept behind, or been unable to attend.

Forcing students into mega schools causes too many children to be left behind.

Teachers are unable to give them the help and focus they need and deserve.

Special education goes out the window. Children are stressed by longer bus rides, earlier wake up times. They are herded from bus to class to bus. All individuality lost in the mob.

My husband and I, along with many of our friends who have children in the local school system, are all against these proposals. Many have spoken of putting their children into private schools just to get back to the wonderful experiences they currently have here in our small towns, if these proposals are passed. Others have stated that they would move their families out of state, as these small local schools are the reason they moved them here in

the first place.

Don't make the mistake of combining our schools. It has NEVER been proven to work or to save money. On the contrary, these mega schools always cost more, and are a HUGE detriment to our Children's futures.

Make the right choice. Vote NO on Governor's Bill SB 874, Senate Bill 457, and Senate Bill 738. Vote for our Children and keep our schools small.

Respectfully,

Abigail Block  
Mom of two  
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