

Cody Chapman, 28 Jericho Drive, Old Lyme, Connecticut. (Resident in region 18)

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in opposition to Senate Bills 457 and 738 and Governors bill SB874.

Studies have shown that young children (my wife and I are raising an 8-year old in Old Lyme, who goes to Lyme Consolidated) learn and perform better in classes that are at or around 18 total students. Or put another way, 18 students for every teacher. My fear is, both personally and generally, that regionalized schools, no matter what financial savings and improved bureaucratic & administrative resource benefits may arise -- would have an adversely negative effect on child education in this state. Many schools, such as my step-son's, would be at risk of higher class sizes or having to move to a new school all together. While I would like to read more about regionalizing benefits for older students, such as high school – and more specifically on the diversity and inclusion benefits that can result at this level with towns working together, I am fully in opposition for kindergarten through middle school State-mandated regionalizing of districts, as well at the high-school level, without more research & debate.

With the above said, I am also not opposed to marginally increased taxes for those of us fortunate enough to live in or have moved in to towns that have strong, well-resourced school systems in place and for those funds to be allocated to educational purposes in districts that may be in need.

Ultimately, I believe broad class size reduction across the state should be far more prioritized, especially at younger ages, and that these proposals being discussed today do not do that.

Thank you,  
Cody