

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am emailing about the following:

- 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

While I understand the motivations behind the regionalization efforts, the proposed new district map will have significant negative impacts not only on my children's education, but on my whole family. We currently reside in Lyme, and my children attend school in Old Lyme, Regional School District 18. By moving Lyme into the Valley Regional school district, the logistics involved in getting to school each morning will be a complete nightmare! Lyme is on the *other side of the CT River* to all these other towns. The commute alone will be a disaster in the morning and will negatively impact both myself and my husband in our commutes to work. Kids, who in high school already wake up far, far too early for their natural body rhythms, will be forced into waking even earlier as the distance to school will be more than tripled, and that is not even accounting for winter weather! The CT river is crossed by only 2 bridges in this region. Lyme and Old Lyme is already regionalized. it would make more sense to join both Lyme and Old Lyme with other towns on the same side of the CT River, rather than separate L-OL at this point.

While the state may seek to reduce the deficit by regionalizing schools, the long-term effect will be to negatively impact house prices in Lyme-Old Lyme. Our school system is one of the reasons why our town is in such high demand. I cannot imagine this will result in many people wanting to stay, or even to move into this region.

Since the major reason why the state is hurting financially is because the wealthy households in this state do not pay their fair share of taxes (specifically those who exploit loopholes so they do not pay ANY taxes at all), I suggest placing the burden of refurbishing the state's coffers on those who can afford to pay their fair share, and not at the expense of the tax paying middle class, or our kids' education.

Sincerely,

Joanne Elmoznino

