

February 28, 2019

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I am writing this email in strong opposition to Senate Bill Number 457 and 738 as well as Governor's Bill SB 874. My husband and I recently moved to Lyme, CT to raise our recently born daughter. When looking for a house, we decided to base our search on school systems in order to ensure our daughter the best environment to help support her educational journey. Once we decided to focus our search based on school systems, we did extensive research on school systems within Connecticut. Our search led us to the Lyme-Old Lyme regional schools, and we purchased a house in Lyme. It is noted that when trying to find a house in Lyme and Old Lyme, we noticed that the house prices were extensively more expensive than surrounding towns and justified spending more money on property with the insurance that property value would remain at a consistent level due to the amenities that the town offered, including its highly rated school system.

These bills jeopardize the local towns where individuals like us have selected to live based on the school system that they thought they were going to send their children. My husband and I respectfully urge you to oppose Senate Bill Number 457, Senate Bill Number 738, and Governor's Bill SB 874, and all other attempts to force school regionalization. Instead, we hope the committee and the legislature will explore less radical approaches to identifying cost savings.

Sincerely,
Caitlin and Christopher Carnevale
Lyme, CT