

March 1st, 2019

To Whom it May Concern-

This letter is in response to Senate Bills 457 and 738 as well as Governor's Bill SB 874. My wife and I are 20 year residents of Lyme, CT and have educated all 4 of our children in the Lyme-Old Lyme School District (Region 18). Please let it be recorded, in the strongest possible terms, my family's profound opposition to the three bills proposing a regionalization of all school districts in CT with a student population under 2,000 students. This community and the families that comprise it are built around a deep personal investment and civic commitment to our schools. It is not at all an overstatement to say that this town \*is\* its schools. They define our community, shape our culture and in a society with fewer and fewer civic bonds, bind us together. The idea of splintering our two towns and regionalizing them into new districts runs so counter to everything this community has been built around that one cannot imagine a more out-of-touch, tone-deaf, blunt-force proposal from the state about a school district that consistently prepares its students, honors its community and represents the very best of what public education is about.

Very sincerely-

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