

February 28, 2019

Reference:

Senate Bill 457

Senate Bill 738

Governor's Bill SB 874

Dear Committee,

We are writing this letter to offer our strong opposition to the proposed bills stated above to regionalize school districts with a population size of less than 2000 students. Not only is there no evidence that this will save the state any money, but it will put our childrens' education, and other students in Region 18, at risk.

We appreciate that regionalization is a very complex topic. We also appreciate the need to operate our state efficiently. However, there is no definitive evidence that large-scale, one-size fits all regionalization leads to a reduction in expenditures --neither short-term or long-term. There is evidence to conclude, however, that regionalization will likely have deleterious impacts in educational achievement across the board.

We chose to live in the small town of Old Lyme, which is semi-regionalized with Lyme for middle school and high school so that our children would have small class size. We want our children to attend school in the town in which we live. Our existing regional school system is the bedrock of our community and promotes high levels of student and parent engagement.

We believe that the suggested proposals are very shortsighted with no empirical evidence from other states (NY, Maine, VT) to suggest that large-scale regionalization has long term benefits that outweigh the harms of such regionalization.

We appreciate your consideration of our opposition on the above Bills.

Sincerely,
Tracy and Kevin McGlinchey
Old Lyme