

Subject: Redistricting Map

Dear Representative or Senator,

I am writing as a constituent and parent from the Town of Grand Isle to share concerns about the proposed draft district map and its impact on families in southern Grand Isle County.

While I understand the intent to promote equity, the current map does not reflect the geographic realities, transportation routes, and employment patterns that shape daily life for families in our community.

For many years, families in South Hero and the Town of Grand Isle have intentionally chosen schools in Colchester, Essex, and South Burlington because those schools align with work locations, childcare needs, transportation routes, and extracurricular opportunities. The schools identified on the draft map do not reflect these long-standing, practical choices.

Chittenden County schools are closer and more accessible for many families. Redirecting students would create longer commutes, increased transportation challenges, and daily disruptions that affect work schedules, after-school care, and family stability.

Most families in southern Grand Isle County work in Chittenden County. School placements that pull families in the opposite direction create real logistical and economic hardship and disproportionately impact working families.

My family would be deeply impacted if this map was to take effect; my ability to work would be jeopardized. More importantly, our daughter is medically complex and has many health concerns and frequent appointments at the Golisano Children's Hospital. These health concerns mean that I need to be able to access the school quickly in an emergency. The logistical challenges of driving through 3 different counties multiple times a week to access the medically necessary care she requires is already putting a pit in my stomach!

I respectfully urge you to revise the draft map so that families in South Hero and the Town of Grand Isle retain the option to send their children to South Burlington, Colchester, or Essex schools. This flexibility supports students' families and the long-term health of our community.

Thank you for your time and for considering the voices of the families who are directly affected.

Sincerely,

Ashley Michaud

Grand Isle