



Written Testimony
by Chancellor David Carter
Connecticut State University System
Before the Government Administration and
Elections Committee
March 19, 2010

Good morning, Senator Slossberg, Representative Spallone and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. Due to previous commitments, I am unable to appear before you today, but I wanted to submit comments for your consideration regarding House Bill 5515, *"An Act Concerning Government Efficiency through Regionalization in Connecticut."*

We applaud the Committee in its efforts to make our state more economically competitive. For certain functions of government, regionalism does make sense. However, we do not believe that this approach would be appropriate for the Connecticut State University System (CSUS). Section 5 of the bill would require the Connecticut State University System to transfer its functions to the regional councils and Section 6 directs that the higher education grant be determined by the regional councils and that it be based on the number of full-time students.

With all due respect, such an approach would not be in the best interests of our students or our state. CSUS is a state-wide university system – in fact, the state's largest university system with 36,000 students. It is not regionally based or locally based. Indeed, if one looks at just our in-state enrollment, it is easy to see that each of our universities attracts students from all across the state, not just from an area concentrated around any individual campus. So, for example, Western certainly has students from Danbury, but it also attracts students from North Stonington, Voluntown, Guilford, and Enfield. Similarly, Eastern not only has students from Windham, but also from Greenwich and Salisbury. In fact, two-thirds of Eastern's full-time students are from outside eastern Connecticut. Overall, students from all across Connecticut, all 50 states, and more than 80 foreign nations routinely attend Central, Eastern, Southern and Western – universities of choice for students of all ages, backgrounds, races and ethnicities.

The breadth of each CSUS university's reach can be seen in their mission and vision statements. For example, Eastern Connecticut State University is "the state's designated public liberal arts college," while Central Connecticut State University "aspires to be global in its perspective and outreach."

Like UConn, it is much more appropriate that CSUS be governed by a state-wide Board of Trustees, as is now the case, and not by a set of regional councils. Because of the numerous systemic initiatives which are undertaken to take advantage of economies of scale and efficiencies in such areas as budgeting, procurement, bonding for auxiliary service facilities through the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA), as well as student-focused access and success initiatives, a switch to regionalization would not be the efficiency step that is intended, but rather a more costly and inefficient way of doing business.

Please feel free to contact Jill E. Ferraiolo, Associate Vice Chancellor for Government Relations/ Communications, should you require any additional information or have any questions regarding these matters.