

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE
TESTIMONY**

SUBJECT MATTER: Education Issues

**S.B. No. 24 AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL
COMPETITIVENESS.**

We have 3 comments relating to the topics of the hearings on Wed 2/22.

First, regionalization should be mandated. In the near term we should be establishing tasks force to look at how best to start regionalizing districts. Perhaps we should start by regionalizing by house district? By town size? The economics and inefficiencies of running small districts are huge. In the long term we should be aiming towards regionalizing by county. Savings realized by regionalizing would be seen in many ways, not all of which would be financial. This is something done in most other states.

Second, no reductions in state funding to districts should occur, except maybe for enrollment decreases. At this time, districts have established programs based on their current funding. Making drastic changes in state funding will only result in shifting the funding burden to the town.

Third, enhancing funding for early childhood education should be a priority. In general, education spending does not correlate with student learning. But research does show that in the case of early childhood education spending does create improved performance. If we have to decide on where to increase funding, we should lean toward the youngest students.

Thanks for your consideration of these comments.

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