

## Testimony of Paul Knag opposing Regionalization Bills SB 738, SB457, SB 874

I would like to express my great concern at the series of regionalization bills referenced above.

I went to school in New York City. There, there were large, unruly schools where parents had no say in the conduct of the schools. I was determined to do better for my children, and so, after a review of alternatives in the greater New York area, my wife and I moved to Darien. In Darien, parents have lots of input and engagement. And the school quality is reflective of that. My children benefitted greatly from their education in the Darien schools. I am asking you to insure that my grandchildren will be able to access the same level of quality.

Threatening this quality, it is suggested that we should start regionalizing our schools. We already have some school districts which have elected to form regionalized districts. But this is a matter which should be left to the towns and their voters to act in the best interest of their schools.

In considering this issue, we should act in an informed way. I would therefore suggest that you review a very informative review of the literature on this subject which was developed by the Hartford Foundation. A copy is attached to this testimony.

This paper makes clear that from both a cost and quality perspective, the consensus of the literature is that smaller districts are better than larger districts as long as the districts aren't too small. From a cost savings perspective, too small means fewer than 750 students in the district.

I would respectfully request that you review this important paper before making any decisions on this issue, and limit any action you may take to voluntary incentives relating to districts with fewer than 750 students.

And please, for the sake of my grandchildren, do not impede the best districts from continuing to do their good work.