



## TESTIMONY

of the

## CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES

to the

## JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

April 10, 2007

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities appreciates the opportunity to testify on the following bill of interest to towns and cities:

### **C.B. 149, “An Act Concerning the Videotaping of Custodial Interrogations”**

C.B. 149 would, among other things, require law enforcement agencies to record (via digital or video equipment) interrogations of persons suspected of a capital or class A or B felony, if feasible. If agencies do not record the interrogation in its entirety, the bill would allow juries to “consider the fact that the custodial interrogation was not recorded in its entirety in determining the reliability of any statement made by a person during such custodial interrogation and the weight to be given to such statement”.

C.B. 149 presents a host of public policy implications that need and warrant exploration: whether it is in the public’s interest that police interrogation techniques be studied by defense attorneys and criminals – allowing defense attorneys to focus on *interrogation techniques* rather than the guilt or innocence of the suspect; and whether and what standards and procedures are to be mandated (what kinds of recording devices are acceptable, what kinds of storage facilities are acceptable, etc.).

The Committee must ensure that the bill is not written in a way as to undermine the criminal investigative process.

CCM is not sure of the fiscal impact that C.B. 149 would have on towns and cities. We, therefore, urge the Committee to obtain a fiscal note on this bill.

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If you have any questions, please call Ron Thomas or Gian-Carl Casa of CCM at (203) 498-3000.