



TESTIMONY
OF THE
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
TO THE
LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE

February 20, 2007

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) appreciates the opportunity to testify on the following bill of interest to towns and cities.

Proposed H.B. 6967, "An Act Extending Workers' Compensation Coverage to Public Safety Workers Injured During Off-Duty Emergencies"

This bill would mandate an extension of workers' compensation coverage for police officers, firefighters, and emergency personnel, when injured while responding to an off-duty emergency.

CCM opposes H.B. 6967 as a new unfunded state mandate on municipalities.

CCM opposes the attempt to use this proposal as a means to increase the workers' compensation liability of towns and cities.

The present workers' compensation law is reasonable and should not be changed. Landmark workers' compensation reform enacted over the past several years should be allowed to continue to work. The reforms were enacted to restore balance to the system and they have been instrumental in attracting and retaining businesses. This has allowed Connecticut to be a more competitive state in terms of its overall business climate. The existing system retains fairness and equity in servicing injured workers and it should be allowed to continue working towards that end.

The dedication of public safety officials is not at issue here. What is at issue is whether towns and cities - and their property taxpayers would be forced to pay millions for a state-granted special benefit.

CCM urges you to either include provisions to reimburse municipalities for the costs of this new costly mandate, or take no action on H.B. 6967.



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