



**TESTIMONY  
CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF SMALL TOWNS (COST)  
BEFORE THE  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 20, 2007  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING**

**RE: HB-7135, AN ACT CONCERNING THE FOUNDATION LEVEL OF THE  
EDUCATION COST SHARING GRANT AND MINIMUM EXPENDITURE  
REQUIREMENT**

**COST supports HB-7135, An Act Concerning the Foundation Level of the Education Cost Sharing Grant and Minimum Expenditure Requirement, which will help towns ensure that all of our students receive a quality education.**

HB-7135 is vital to the state's towns because it: 1) raises the foundation to \$10,000 from the current \$5891 for Fiscal Year 06-07 and 2) indexes the foundation to inflation for each year after FY 09. These changes will allow towns to better serve the needs of our children who rely on the public school system to prepare them for a productive life through employment and/or higher education.

To assist towns in meeting the educational needs of their students, the state must step up to the plate and provide a level of education aid to our towns and cities which is sufficient to end our over reliance on local property taxes. Over reliance on property taxes to fund education results in educational inequities across the state.

**We therefore urge you to support HB-7135.**