



TESTIMONY
OF THE
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
TO THE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

March 3, 2009

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local governments - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to testify before this joint committee on issues of concern to towns and cities.

Governor's Bill 834 **"An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations Concerning Social Services"**

Sections 4 and 9 of this proposal would, among other things, establish (*via a regional planning council model*):

- (1) A community and social services block grant program to promote programs that (i) eliminate poverty, (ii) enhance substance abuse prevention and treatment, and (iii) provide counseling and case management services, youth services, exercise programs, etc..
- (2) An employment services block grant program to provide services to facilitate the transition from school to work – and job training and job placement services.

*CCM supports these sections in SB 834 as prudent means of helping local governments assist residents during these very difficult times. Local officials are on the front lines in providing services to all Connecticut residents. **Creating these grant programs would help municipalities expand on existing services, as well as develop new ones – in a time period when such services are in greater demand.***

During tough economic times people come to their local governments for help. Problems not attended to by the federal or state governments end up on the municipal doorstep. A social services block grant program would help local officials -- elected and accountable -- work with the non-profit community to ensure that social services are delivered in the best and most efficient manner.

The initiatives proposed in sections 4 and 9 of this bill would be invaluable investments in our hometowns' most precious resource – our residents. These block grant plans would also be much-needed measures to enhance and encourage regional cooperation in meeting social services needs -- needs that don't necessarily stop at municipal borders

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CCM urges the committee to favorably report sections 4 and 9 of SB 834 as much-needed steps to strengthen Connecticut's state-local social services partnership.



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