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THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

March 1, 2010

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 provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

CCM opposes Raised House Bill 5318 "*An Act Concerning School Resource Officers*" as a new unfunded mandate on towns and cities.

Among other things, this bill would mandate that all school resource officers complete certain training requirements as certified by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council – without mention of any funding for such new training mandates.

CCM appreciates the intent of this proposal – however, has concerns about both the administrative and fiscal impacts this new state mandate would have on local law enforcement services. Towns and cities have recently suffered a \$100 million cut in state aid in this biennium; the State is currently grappling with a \$500-\$700 million current year deficit; and, upwards of \$3 billion deficits faces us in the out years. In addition, as local costs rise *ECS is expected to be "level-funded" with FY 08-09, and only due to federal ARRA funding.* In this context the State should not entertain any new unfunded mandates on local governments. Municipalities are not receiving enough state funds for what they already must do.

CCM urges the committee to take no action on this bill.

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If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver,
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