



TESTIMONY

of the

CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES

to the

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

March 10, 2010

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

S.B. 230, "An Act Concerning the Videotaping of Custodial Interrogations"

S.B. 230 would mandate that law enforcement agency interrogations for capital felony A or B crimes be inadmissible in court, unless such interrogations are recorded electronically.

S.B. 230 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 S.B. 230 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.