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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 the imposition of any new unfunded mandate on local governments or local/regional boards of education.

Raised Senate Bill 279 "*An Act Concerning Foreign Language Taught in the Public Schools*" and Raised House Bill 5315 "*An Act Concerning Education and the Reduction of Domestic Violence*" would be state-dictated changes to high school graduation requirements and teacher in-service training and would impose new unfunded mandates on local and regional boards of education - further increasing the financial burden on local property taxpayers.

While these proposals may be laudable in purpose, 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 these bills.

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