



## TESTIMONY

of the

## CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES

to the

## GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

March 17, 2010

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

**CCM *supports* Raised Senate Bill 362 "An Act Concerning the Streamlining of State Grant Distribution".**

The bill would require the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to develop a process to expedite the "approval and distribution process" for state grants.

Municipal officials and others have long complained about the lengthy time it takes to receive state funding from various state agencies, including OPM, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Economic and Community Development, and the Department of Transportation.

Delays in approving and distributing grants means either a delay in providing needed services or the usage of sparse municipal funds to pay for the services until communities may be reimbursed by the State.

Municipal officials understand that part of the delay has to do with staffing (municipal officials have had to lay off many employees as a result of the economy too). However, much of delay seems to have more to do with duplicative forms, inadequate technology and the need for innovative approaches to ensure that vital grants that ensure the health, safety and welfare of our state are adjudicated in a thoughtful, yet expedited manner.

If OPM is unable to study and develop policies, the Legislature has an entity available that could give this important issue the right focus and commitment - The Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee (PRI). PRI could study the best approach for streamlining state grant approval and distribution processes. Not only is the Committee equipped with knowledgeable staff to conduct such a study, but the process ensures input from various municipal officials, nonprofits - and other members of the public.

## ## ##

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