



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
HOUSING COMMITTEE

March 4, 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 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to testify before you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

Raised House Bill 5372, "An Act Concerning Accessible Housing."

HB 5372 would exempt, from the property tax rolls, selected privately developed housing for the physically disabled single and multifamily residential developments.

While CCM appreciates language in the bill requiring the state to reimburse municipalities for 100% of the property taxes lost as a result of this exemption, tough economic times means the State has been unwilling to maintain previous funding commitments, forcing increases in Connecticut's largest and most unfair tax - the property tax. The hard facts are clear:

- **PILOT payments for state-mandated tax-exempt property** of the State and of private colleges and hospitals were cut by \$14 million from FY 08-09 for each year of the biennium. The reimbursement rate for State property has fallen from 41% in FY 02 to 33% this year and the reimbursement rate for private colleges and hospitals from 73% in FY 02 to 54% this year.
- **Pequot-Mohegan grants** provided as much as \$135 million annually from FY 1998 to FY 02. This year, slashed again, they will provide just \$61.8 million. At its inception, municipalities received 78% of these slot-machine revenues - this year they will receive just 16%.

CCM urges the state to ensure that municipalities will be reimbursed no less than 100% of the lost revenue as a result of this new property tax exemption.

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If you have any questions, please contact Donna Hamzy, Legislative Associate
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