CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES

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THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

TESTIMONY

of the

CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES

to the

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

In-School Suspension Mandate

March 10, 2010

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities 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 this joint committee on the important issue of in-school suspensions.

CCM supports **R.B. 5031, "An Act Reducing Costs to Municipalities"**, and **R.B. 197, "An Act Concerning In-School Suspensions."** Contained in these bills are proposals that would delay the in-school suspension mandate for 2 years, from 7/10 to 7/12.

MORE Commission Recommendation

CCM supports the Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies (MORE) proposal to delay the in-school suspension mandate for 3 years, from 7/10 to 7/13.

Public Act 07-66, *which requires schools to do in-school suspensions* unless a student poses a threat or danger to other students or faculty, is costly to towns and cities. The costs associated with this mandate for staffing, administrative and facilities would deplete already limited education funding. The delay in the implementation date will provide municipalities an immediate savings on costs associated with housing such students on-site during their suspension periods and allow municipalities more time to implement a long-term plan for meeting the intent of the law.

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CCM estimates that implementing the mandate would cost towns and cities from $9,000 per year (small town) to $4.5 million per year (city). The average cost per student is approximately $197.

CCM urges the Committee to draft and favorably report the recommendation of the Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies (MORE) Commission to delay the mandate for 3 years.

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If you have any questions, please call Ron Thomas, Jim Finley or Gian-Carl Casa, at (203) 498-3000.