



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

February 14, 2011

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 provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

CCM opposes Raised Bill 941 "AA Implementing No-Excuse Absentee Voting" and Senate Constitutional Resolution 25 "Resolution Amending the State Constitution to Allow for No-Excuse Absentee Voting."

The absentee ballot process is extremely time consuming and costly for local governments – not to mention the open door for election fraud possibilities.

Town Clerks have estimated that a "no-excuse" absentee ballot system could increase the usage of this method of voting by over 40% and have further indicated that there would not be an increase in voter participation – as proponents have claimed. Rather, it would merely be a shift for many from in-person voting to the absentee ballot.

There are many mechanisms that are being used across the country – such as early voting – that should be thoroughly explored as a means to increase voter participation, while protecting the integrity of the election system and carefully protecting against fraud. CCM is eager to work with the Committee and the Secretary of the State on how best to accomplish this.

CCM urges the committee to oppose these bills and take no action on them.

##

If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, Senior Legislative Associate of CCM via email kweaver@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 498-3026.