



TESTIMONY  
of the  
**CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES**  
to the  
**LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEE COMMITTEE**

February 1, 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.

**H.B. 5465     “An Act Concerning Family and Medical Leave Benefits for Certain Municipal Employees”**

Identical to an unfunded state mandate proposal from last session (S.B. 300) -- this proposal would mandate that towns and cities provide municipal paraprofessionals benefits in accordance with the federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), by reducing the number of hours paraprofessional employees of local governments must work in order to qualify for certain family FMLA benefits.

CCM **opposes H.B. 5465** as a new, unfunded state mandate on municipalities. Local officials are also concerned about the precedent H.B. 5465 would set by lowering the threshold for eligibility for this particular benefit.

The non-partisan Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) has concluded this proposal would be a “STATE MANDATE” on towns and cities, which could force “potential costs” on already struggling local budgets. According to OFA, such a proposal as H.B. 5465 could impact approximately 25,000 paraprofessionals statewide – thus, provoking overtime costs and administrative burdens on limited local resources.

Although well-intended, hometowns have already faced – and will probably face more – budget cuts, layoffs, and concessions, this is not the time for new state mandates on local governments.

CCM urges the Committee to **take no action on H.B. 5465.**

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If you have any questions, please contact Bob Labanara of CCM at [rlabanara@ccm-ct.org](mailto:rlabanara@ccm-ct.org).