



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE
February 17, 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.

HB 6329 "An Act Concerning the Maintenance of Health Insurance for Spouses and Dependents of Certain Deceased Police Officers and Firefighters Who Have Died in the Performance of Their Duties"

This bill would mandate that towns and cities pay for health insurance of both the spouses and children of any police officer and/or firefighter killed while in the performance of their duties.

CCM opposes HB 6329 as a new, costly unfunded state mandate on municipalities.

While this proposal is well-intended, it would impose an unprecedented state mandate on local budgets during the worst fiscal crisis in decades. As local officials draft this year's budgets – many grapple with the prospect of more concessions, service cutbacks and layoffs. Simply put, HB 6329 would force additional costs on local budgets that just cannot afford them.

In this recession, local officials desperately need their state lawmakers to focus on means that would help preserve the local bottom line – and not new mandates that would impose serious negative impacts on limited resources.

CCM urges the Committee to take **no action on HB 6329.**

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If you have any questions, please contact Bob Labanara at rlabanara@ccm-ct.org.