



913

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

March 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 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

SB 913 "An Act Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees"

Similar to proposals from previous legislative sessions, SB 913 would, among other things, require all towns and cities to provide paid sick leave to their employees.

CCM **opposes SB 913**. The non-partisan Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) has concluded that such a proposal would be a "STATE MANDATE" on municipalities -- and that there would be a negative fiscal impact (i.e. costs) to already strained local budgets (see *SB 63, File No. 80, 2010*).

While CCM is sympathetic to the intent of this proposal -- like previous years, this bill is problematic. SB 913 is ambiguous with regard to such full-time municipal employees as paraprofessionals, park and recreational staff, and local camp counselors. Under this bill it is therefore, plausible that such employees could meet the proposed minimum hourly threshold of 520 hours per year -- see *Section 1(3)* -- which is just approximately over 3 months of full-time work -- and thus, trigger this costly, new unfunded state mandate.

Faced with lay-offs and significant service cutbacks at the local level -- municipal leaders urge state lawmakers to focus on means to reduce unfunded state mandates -- and not push new, potentially costly ones on hometowns.

CCM urges you to **take no action on SB 913**.

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