



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
March 2, 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.

**HB 5618 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COUNCIL TO
PROMOTE ENHANCED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN STATE AND
LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS**

HB 5618 would create an advisory council within the Department of Public Health (DPH) for the purpose of improving communication and collaboration among DPH, municipal health departments and local health districts.

CCM supports HB 5618. This proposal is a reasonable means of fostering greater state and local public health collaboration. The recommendation in HB 5618 is similar to the council within the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (created by CGS 28-1b) which ensures that local, state and federal governments coordinate efforts. Most stakeholders agree the DEMHS council serves as a useful structure for our local-state partnership.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requires a certain degree of collaboration among state and local officials in order to receive critical public health funding. Such a coordinating council, as proposed in HB 5618, is therefore, a logical mechanism to maximize federal funds while improving input and collaboration among all officials, at all levels of government.

CCM urges the committee to **favorably report HB 5618.**

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If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Legislative Analyst of CCM via email mmuszynski@ccm-ct.gov or via phone (203) 500-7556.