



CCM 2012 Testimony

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COMMERCE COMMITTEE

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The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (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 the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

CCM supports Senate Bill 405 "An Act Concerning Targeted Health Areas."

Would establish a Targeted Health Area program within ten municipalities to provide economic incentives to physicians providing primary care services or needed medical specialties in such targeted health areas that have (1) a medically-undeserved population, or (2) a population with a high rate of chronic disease.

While CCM appreciates the Committee's commitment to ensuring that newly insured individuals do not experience difficulty in gaining access to care and services, funding also be provided to local health departments within these targeted health areas..

Access to public health promotes health programs and policies that support good health, prevents disease outbreaks and conditions that give rise to poor health and protects people from health threats. As such, public health is critical to ensuring cost containment in statewide health reform by addressing health needs at an early stage, well before individual problems become acute.

CCM urges the Committee to amend the bill to include funding for local health departments within the Targeted Health Areas and to favorably report the amended bill.

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If you have any questions, please contact Donna Hamzy, Legislative Associate of CCM
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