



CCM 2012 Testimony

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LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES 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.

Senate Bill 150 "An Act Concerning Family and Medical Leave Benefits for Certain Municipal Employees"

CCM **opposes SB 150** as a new unfunded state mandate on towns and cities that would require municipalities to provide local 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.

In identical proposals from previous sessions - the non-partisan **Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA)** has **concluded this 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 could impact approximately 25,000 paraprofessionals statewide - thus, provoking overtime costs and administrative burdens on limited local resources. CCM is also concerned about the precedent this new mandate would set by lowering the threshold for eligibility for this particular benefit.

Although well-intended, this is not the time for new state mandates on local governments.

CCM urges the Committee to **oppose SB 150**.



If you have any questions, please contact Bob Labanara, Senior Legislative Associate of CCM via email rlabanara@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 498-3023.