



CCM 2012 Testimony

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

March 7, 2012

Good Morning,

I am Lisa Pellegrini, First Selectman of Somers and Vice-Chair of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Policy Committee on Public Health.

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 277** "*An Act Establishing a Council to Promote Collaboration Between Local Health Departments and the Department of Public Health.*"

This bill 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 other local, regional and state officials.

The recommendation in this bill is similar to the Advisory Board within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, which ensures that the planning and communication efforts of local, state and federal officials are coordinated. Absent a county-form of government -- most stakeholders agree that such an 'advisory structure' within a State agency is an invaluable mechanism for sustaining Connecticut's critical local-state partnership.

SB 277 is a logical means of fostering greater collaboration among local, regional and state health officials - and could enhance local emergency preparedness planning and the availability of resources for towns and cities by replacing silos of communication, with a more transparent interaction among officials.

CCM urges the committee to **favorably report SB 277**.



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