EDUCATION COMMITTEE

March 4, 2013

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 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

CCM *has concerns with the costs associated with implementing* HB 6504 *"An Act Alternative School Programs".*

The bill would create yet another new unfunded mandate on local boards of education by requiring them to provide an "alternative school program" for certain students.

Towns and cities are currently facing the potential for significant state aid reductions, based on the current proposed budget, not to mention the looming possibility of a greater than $700 million loss in revenues if elimination of the car tax is indeed implemented.

And, as CCM has testified to before, the cost for public education in our state for the current school year is over $10 billion and municipal property taxpayers already:

- Fund 51.4 percent of that amount (more than $5 billion). The State contributes an estimated 42.9 percent and the federal government 5.2 percent.
- Pay at least $0.62 of every $1.00 raised in property taxes toward PreK-12 public education.
- Pay at least 60 percent of Connecticut's $1.7 billion in special-education costs.
- Pick-up the bill for numerous other state-mandated education priorities that are not fully funded by the State.

If the policy position contained within this bill is a priority of the state, then it should ensure full funding to implement it. Otherwise, CCM urges the committee to ***take no action*** on this bill.

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If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, State Relations Manager,
kwalsh-weaver@ccm-ct.org or (203) 710-9525.