



CCM 2013 Testimony

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

Governor's Bill 6358 "An Act Unleashing Innovation in Connecticut Schools."

Among other things, would **provide some relief from state education mandates** by (1) eliminating the reporting requirement for student progress in kindergarten and (2) allowing the State Board of education to provide waivers to up to 10 "high performing" school districts in school year 2013-14, and an additional 10 in school year 2014-15, for (a) length of school year and day; (b) prescribed courses of study; (c) and graduation requirements. In addition, would create a new "teaching profession initiative pilot program" to assist in attracting, developing and retaining high quality teachers and administrators.

According to information provided by members, on average **70% of a municipal budget is accounted by the education budget**. Furthermore, approximately **70% of the education budget is made up of state and federal mandates**.

CCM has been advocating for mandates relief, especially on the education side, for many years. This proposal is welcomed in the face of looming reductions in state aid, as proposed in the Governor's proposed biennial budget, on top of painful budget cuts already enacted on the local level over the last many budget cycles.

CCM **urges support for this bill** and help to enact mandates relief for towns and cities.

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If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, State Relations Manager,
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