



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.

CCM opposes HB 6385 "An Prohibiting the Use of Pesticides at Public Schools."

This bill would expand the reach and impact of the current ban of the use of certain products on K-8 school grounds in Connecticut.

Local groundskeepers and public works directors across the state are reporting increased pest populations, both insect and plant, and rapidly deteriorating fields as a result of the current statutory restrictions on K-8 school grounds. These restrictions have continued to be in place for several years now, even though EPA has identified Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as "a safer, and usually less costly option for effective pest management in the school community," which "employs commonsense strategies to reduce sources of food, water and shelter for pests in your school buildings and grounds," further taking "advantage of all pest management strategies, including judicious careful use of pesticides when necessary."

Municipal officials are second-to-none in ensuring the safety and health of children. Not only are municipal officials parents, but they have a fiduciary duty to protect and defend the public's interest. Because of this responsibility, and the continued debate as to whom has the best and right information about these products, **CCM supports instead the creation of a balanced working group/task force to thoroughly examine and vet the facts** surrounding field management and provide recommendations as to how Connecticut should address this issue.

Chairmen of the Planning & Development Committee and Environment Committee have already agreed to put forth such a proposal, to ensure that all interested sides have an opportunity to be involved and collaborate in a solution.

CCM ***urges opposition to this bill*** and instead ***support for a balanced collaborative*** to achieve the appropriate state policy.

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