CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CCM 2013 Testimony

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PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

February 20, 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.

HB 6374 AN ACT CONCERNING COORDINATED LONG-TERM DISASTER RELEIF AND RECOVERY

This proposal would create the Connecticut Coordinated Assistance and Recovery Endowment (CT CARE) Fund for victims of disasters and other emergencies. As proposed, the CT CARE Fund would establish several separate accounts restricted to each emergency, as well as an endowment for operations and sustainability. In addition, it would create an infrastructure to receive private donations in response to an emergency or disaster, report on such donations, and allocate funding in accordance with the intent of the donors.

HB 6347 would establish a governing board, comprised of selective voting members from DEMHS and victims services – and would include the CEO of CCM as an advisory, non-voting member. For each declared incident, a distribution committee would be established and include the local CEOs of the affected area. As proposed, the distributed funds would provide relief to both individuals and municipalities.

CCM supports HB 6374 as an efficient and effective means of pinpointing assistance to overwhelmed communities and their families. With an unprecedented five declared state of emergencies in the past two years, it is not secret that towns and cities on the frontlines of disasters need more assistance – and are steadfast in working with state partners to better preparing, responding and recovering from all hazards.

CCM urges the Committee to **favorably report HB 6374**.

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If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Legislative Associate of CCM
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