



CCM 2014 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.

SB 476, "An Act Concerning the Academic Achievement Gap"

While CCM appreciates the intent behind this proposal, CCM is concerned with the costs associated with it. SB 476 would require all Alliance Districts to provide full-day kindergarten programs and all districts to expand bilingual education programs.

SB 476 could be an unfunded state mandate. There are already over 1,200 mandates imposed on towns and cities on the books. **Many of the cost drivers for local school districts are a result of unfunded and partially funded state and federal mandates.** The list of mandates is large - and growing - and complying with them is a daunting task under any circumstance, but even more so given the current economic and fiscal environment.

CCM urges the Committee to obtain a detailed fiscal analysis prior to voting on SB 476.



If you have any questions, please contact Chelsey Worth at cworth@ccm-ct.org or (203) 470-5214.