



# CCM 2014 Testimony

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## ***JUDICIARY COMMITTEE***

March 12, 2014

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 432 – “An Act Providing Notice to the Chief Executive Officer of a Municipality Upon the Release of a Registered Sexual Offender into Such Municipality.”**

**HB 5449 – “An Act Concerning Residency Restrictions for Registered Sexual Offenders.”**

CCM **supports** both SB 432 and HB 5449 as a reasonable means to ensure public safety is properly maintained.

CCM appreciates the Committee raising SB 432, which would require the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to provide notification to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a municipality when a registered sexual offender is released into their community. Currently, police departments are already notified through the COLLECT system when an offender is released into the municipality. The Department of Corrections provides DESPP with the information, which then input it into the COLLECT system.

Local CEO's are often unaware when an offender is released into the community. While police receive notification, they are often consumed with normal law enforcement duties, and often it is not a priority for them to report the information to the local CEO. For municipalities that do not have an organized police force, often times the local CEO receives calls regarding non emergency public safety matters. This information will be useful in knowing the placement of these offenders and ensuring they are not near vulnerable individuals, such as schools, day cares, senior centers. While placement of an offender may not be near these vulnerable individuals, local CEO's may have a better knowledge of future development plans. With the myriad of responsibilities that municipal leaders have, it is often cumbersome for them to repeatedly check the online sex offender registry for any changes.

HB 5449 would prohibit registered sex offenders, when released, to reside within 1,000 ft of an elementary, secondary or day care center. This proposal, along with SB 432 will enhance safety within our communities.

CCM asks the Committee to **favorably report** SB 432 and HB 5449.



If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Senior Legislative Associate of CCM at [mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org](mailto:mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org) or (203) 500-7556.