

CCM 2014 Testimony

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LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES 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.

Senate Bill 220 "An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Labor History in the Public School Curriculum"

SB 220 would mandate that "labor history and law, including the history of organized labor, the collective bargaining process and existing legal protections in the workplace..." be among the required subject matters taught within Connecticut's local public schools.

While CCM understands the objective of this proposal, SB 220 would impose a **new unfunded state mandate on school time, staffing, and resources**. Each year new curriculum mandates are proposed. Absent relief from other curriculum mandates, at what point will additional hours have to be added to the school day in order to accommodate each and every one?

As our hometowns struggle to meet the costs of hundreds of existing mandates, and particularly as local public education is inadequately funded by the State – now is not the time to impose new unfunded mandates.

CCM urges the Committee to **take no action on SB 220**.

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If you have any questions, please contact Robert Labanara, State Relations Manager for CCM, at rlabanara@ccm-ct.org.