



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.

SB 319 "An Act Concerning Maximum Medical Improvement"

SB 319 would, among other things, prohibit municipalities from completing medical and surgical aid or hospital and nursing services to employees that have been compensated, despite such employees' physician or surgeon diagnoses of attaining "maximum medical improvement." As a result, this proposal would mandate "continued treatment of the physical impairment that resulted in the diagnosis of maximum medical improvement" despite a doctor's determination that such compensated injury has "become stable" and that "no further treatment is reasonably expected to improve the condition."

CCM opposes SB 319 as a new unfunded state mandate on towns and cities that would disrupt the workers' compensation system and unnecessarily increase local workers' compensation costs.

There are over 1,200 mandates imposed on towns and cities on the books. Struggling to come out of the worst economy since the Great Depression, municipalities cannot afford another unfunded state mandate. Hometowns across the State have enacted painful budget cuts and are guarding against additional cuts. Deep cuts in services and massive layoffs have occurred in Connecticut's central cities - with the prospect of additional layoffs on the horizon. SB 319 would exacerbate fiscal problems at the local level.

Present workers' compensation law is reasonable and should not be changed. CCM urges the Committee to **take no action** on SB 319.

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