



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 474, "An Act Concerning Education Issues"

CCM *supports* this bill.

Education is the largest single item in municipal budgets and in some towns, it adds up to as much as 80% of the municipality's **total** budget. The ECS grant is currently underfunded by more than \$700 million. Chronic state underfunding of PreK-12 public education has made Connecticut the most reliant state in the nation on property taxes to fund education.

CCM urges the Committee to ensure (a) the study prescribed for in the legislation addresses Connecticut's severe underfunding issues as a whole and (b) CCM has representation on the task force.

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