



CCM 2015 Testimony

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COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

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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 96% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

SB 208, "An Act Concerning Playground Equipment Safety Standards"

SB 208, as raised, is an unfunded state mandate.

SB 208 would, among other things, require (a) the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to develop standards for playground equipment that are equivalent to standards established by the Public Playground Safety Handbook; and (b) establish timetables by which municipal playgrounds would be required to such standards.

Local officials appreciate the intent of this proposal, and share the common goal of ensuring the safety of our children as a top priority. In fact, many municipalities already institute internal guidelines in order to comply with these standards. However, absent state assistance in implementing these standards, CCM has concerns regarding the cost of mandating such standards on all towns and cities, as proposed in SB 208.

CCM urges the committee to consider carefully the implications of requiring compliance with a Handbook that could change – and change drastically – in the near future, in terms of requirements for towns. Such changes could impose huge mandates on towns --- without towns having the ability to comment on requirements imposed on them.

Therefore, CCM looks forward to working with the Committee and urges the Committee to **obtain a detailed fiscal analysis on the impact SB 208 would have on municipalities, particularly smaller communities with limited resources.**



If you have any questions, please contact Alex Beaudoin, Legislative Analyst, at abeaudoin@ccm-ct.org, or (860) 670-4021.