



**Testimony
Betsy Gara
Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the Public Safety Committee
March 3, 2015**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST), which represents 115 towns throughout Connecticut, appreciates the opportunity to comment in **support** of **HB-6912, AN ACT CONCERNING THE SCHOOL SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.**

HB-6912 simply extends the time period for awarding a school security grant. This grant program has been a successful tool in assisting school districts in improving security infrastructure in schools to help keep our children and school employees safe.

COST also *supports* HB-6913, AN ACT CONCERNING LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANS OF OPERATION.

HB-6913 requires local emergency plans of operation to be filed biennially rather than annually. This will help reduce costs on municipalities, which is helpful given the serious fiscal challenges facing our communities.

COST is an advocacy organization committed to giving small towns a strong voice in the legislative process. Its members are Connecticut towns with populations of less than 30,000. COST champions the major policy needs and concerns of Connecticut's suburban and rural towns. More information is available at www.ctcost.org.