



CCM 2015 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 156 towns and cities, representing over 95 percent of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

SB 942, "An Act Implementing the Budget Recommendations of the Governor Concerning Education"

CCM is appreciative that Governor Malloy has maintained a commitment to property taxpayers by sparing towns and cities from massive cuts in critical state grants. The main (categorical) state aid grants that go to all towns and cities are protected from cutbacks: the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Grant; PILOTS for Private Colleges and Hospitals and for State Property; the Pequot/Mohegan Grant, the Town Aid Road (TAR) Grant and the Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP).

However, CCM has concerns with the proposed changes contained in SB 942 which would, among other things eliminate funding for the Extended School Hours and School Year Accountability grants run through the Priority School Districts program. Additionally, this proposal would eliminate Youth Service Bureau Enhancement grants – as well as move the Youth Service Bureau grants from the State Department of Education to the Department of Children and Families.

Local officials know best that tough economic times require difficult budget choices – and have long adopted practices at the local level of doing more with less. However, the proposed elimination of funding in SB 942, to such critical programs, would jeopardize the significant progress made over the last four years in the delivery of local public education.

In order for Connecticut to compete economically with its neighbors and the world, the State must, at the very least, sustain its overall financial commitment to preK-12 public education.

CCM urges the Committee to protect state aid to the Priority School District program and maintain its commitment to Connecticut's Youth Service Bureaus.



If you have any questions, please contact Bob Labanara (rlabanara@ccm-ct.org) at 203-710-0491.