



CCM 2015 Testimony

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PUBLIC HEALTH 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.

HB 5907 "An Act Concerning Notification to Emergency Medical Services Organizations Regarding Patients Diagnosed with Infectious Diseases"

CCM supports the proposal to expand protections for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel that may have been exposed to an infectious disease.

Current law, CGS §19a-904, lists particular infectious diseases that require a hospital needs to notify the EMS personnel that provided transportation to the facility of the potential exposure to the disease. This bill would expand that list to other life-threatening infectious diseases. While it would be difficult, if not impossible, to list each of these diseases, CCM would advocate for language to be added to existing statute that would require notification to EMS personnel if they transported a patient to the hospital, that was later diagnosed with *any National Center for Disease Control identified infectious disease*. This would account for any new or emerging infectious diseases.

In addition, CCM supports the provision of HB 5907 that would require the hospital to notify, within forty-eight hours, to the EMS provider that transported or treated a patient who has been diagnosed with an infectious disease. CCM recommends that language be included to ensure that the notification be in writing and provide as much information as necessary to the EMS personnel without violating HIPPA.

CCM urges the Committee to favorably report HB 5907.



If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Senior Legislative Associate of CCM at mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org or (203) 500-7556.