



CCM 2015 Testimony

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

March 4, 2015

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 5912 "An Act Concerning Training in Mental Health First Aid for Emergency Medical Service Personnel"

CCM supports HB 5912 as it would provide training for emergency medical service (EMS) personnel in mental health issues.

This proposal was an issue discussed within CCM's Policy Committee on Public Safety. Members of the Committee -- which include Local CEOs, law enforcement, fire and EMS professionals -- indicated that this training would be beneficial for local first responders. EMS personnel respond to facilities or residences on a frequent basis. In a number of situations, without additional patient information, EMS personnel only transfer these patients rather than provide or assist with actual treatment in "the field". The training proposed in HB 5912 could better equip EMS personnel in their response to assist such individuals.

CCM urges the committee to **favorably report** HB 5912.

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