



COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

February 16, 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 over 96% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

HB 5141, "An Act Concerning Concussions in Youth Athletic Activities Conducted on Public Athletic Fields"

The bill would, among other things, require operators of youth athletic activities utilizing public athletic fields to follow concussion protocols substantially similar to those currently used for intramural and interscholastic athletic activities. While CCM understands the intent of the proposal, the logistics and administrative requirements placed on municipalities may be overly burdensome.

Many coaches participate in these athletic programs as volunteers. The requirement that they complete more frequent refresher courses regarding concussions may prevent them from volunteering. These coaches already put in considerable time and attention, and may not be able to absorb the time and any fiscal burden that the additional requirement would have.

In addition, CCM has concerns with logistics of requiring each parent or legal guardian to sign a consent form before the child is able to participate in the youth athletic activity. While a laudable goal, this provision may negatively impact children with parents who work, or have any other responsibility that prevents them from engaging in their child's extracurricular activities.

CCM welcomes the opportunity to work with the committee to ensure a proper balance between safety and compliance for the municipality. In doing so, CCM urges the Committee to take into account the concerns referenced above and obtain a detailed fiscal note on the impact HB 5141 would have on towns and cities, before taking further action.



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