



## ***COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH***

February 16, 2016

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 5053 "An Act Increasing Access to Overdose Reversal Drugs"**

The bill would require municipalities to amend their local emergency medical service plans to ensure that the primary medical service provider is trained and equipped with opioid antagonist medication, such as Narcan.

CCM realizes the opioid epidemic that is occurring in Connecticut, and throughout the country. Accordingly, in December 2014, CCM established a working group comprised of municipal CEOs – from urban, rural and suburban communities - health professionals, community health providers, educators and law enforcement officials to examine the issue. Through the various meetings, the Working Group learned the value and life-saving capabilities of opioid antagonists, such as Narcan.

There are a variety of first responders in Connecticut that already carry this medication. While the benefit of the medication is profound, there still remains a cost. In order to assist towns and cities, CCM suggests the General Assembly either provide a grant or bonding to help fund the allocation of opioid antagonists, such as Narcan, to be in compliance with this proposal. This approach would be no different than those taken by the Legislature regarding other public health and safety proposals, such as grants for school security or bonding for prescription drug drop boxes.

CCM appreciates the Committees work on this important issue, and hopes to work with the General Assembly to help combat this unfortunately growing problem.

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If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Advocacy Manager of CCM at [mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org](mailto:mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org) or (203) 500-7556.