



## ***PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE***

February 19, 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.

### ***CCM supports House Bill 5176 "An Act Concerning Community Residences."***

The bill would allow a town to designate an employee to serve as liaison between a municipality and designated State agencies, and establish a task force to study the distribution of community residences throughout the state.

The ability of a town or city to establish a liaison to selected state agencies would improve coordination between municipalities and these agencies in matters related to agency funded community residences and ensure the timely notification of existing and proposed community residences.

The ability of town or city to know the location and population of an existing community residence is important and will serve to improve public safety by enabling local first responders to know that a particular address is a community residence and may house an increased number of residents that may need assistance in the event of a fire or emergency.

CCM would ask that local officials, representing urban, suburban and rural communities be included in the task force in order to represent the different needs and capacities of municipalities when studying the distribution of community residences.

CCM urges the Committee to **support** HB 5176.

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If you have any questions, please contact Randy Collins, Advocacy Manager of CCM at [rcollins@ccm-ct.org](mailto:rcollins@ccm-ct.org) or (860) 707-6446.