



## *Labor & Public Employees Committee*

March 8, 2018

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 **opposes** the following bills:

**SB 1**            **An Act Concerning Earned Family Medical Leave**

**HB 5388**        **An Act Concerning a Fair Minimum Wage**

**HB 5044**        **An Act Concerning Fair Treatment of Sick Workers**

**HB 5387**        **An Act Concerning Paid Family Medical Leave**

Municipalities are not immune to the effects of the growing fiscal crisis at the state level. As a result, Connecticut towns and cities are consistently being given less, while being mandated to do more.

When the State requires municipalities to comply with underfunded and unfunded mandates towns and cities have no choice but to increase the local property tax. **Local property tax increases hurt everyone.**

These proposals will have significant negative fiscal and administrative impacts on municipal budgets. Ultimately, these proposals will hit local property tax payers equally hard. As towns and cities face steadily eroding state aid, they would be forced to pass the increased costs on to residents through increased fees or by increasing the local property tax.

Municipalities often employ students or other individuals in seasonal and/or part-time roles. These proposals would greatly inflate costs associated with seasonal or part-time employees and are likely to result in staffing reductions. Municipalities would be forced to shift responsibilities

to other full-time employees as they look to contain costs and avoid adding additional pressure to an already overburdened property tax base.

Municipalities cannot continue to generate more own-source revenue to continually subsidize steadily eroding state aid while simultaneously absorbing new underfunded and unfunded mandates. **Accordingly, the State should not consider new mandates until it is prepared to provide meaningful mandate relief to towns and cities.**

CCM is fully supportive of efforts to help ensure Connecticut's towns and cities are vibrant and inclusive communities. However, we believe that communities and their residents do best if they are not unduly burdened by a high local property tax. There is an inherent inequity in a municipality's overreliance on the property tax to fund municipal operations, it does not factor in the ability to pay.

For these reasons, CCM urges the Committee to **take no action on SB 1, HB 5388, HB 5044 and HB 5387.**

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If you have any questions, please contact Daniel C. Giungi, Senior Legislative Associate for CCM, at [dgiungi@ccm-ct.org](mailto:dgiungi@ccm-ct.org) or (203) 498-3023.