



**Betsy Gara**  
**Executive Director**  
**Connecticut Council of Small Towns**  
**Before the Education Committee**  
**March 14, 2018**

**SUPPORT - SB – 459 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGIONAL PROCESSING AND RETENTION OF FINGERPRINT RECORDS.**

Education costs comprise roughly 70 – 80% of a town’s budget. Given the fiscal pressures facing Connecticut’s municipalities, The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) supports efforts to encourage cost-effective regional approaches to delivering services. Under SB-459, the processing and retention of fingerprint records can be performed on a regional basis, which will help reduce education costs and improve efficiencies.

**OPPOSE SECTION 9 - SB-453 - AN ACT CONCERNING CLASSROOM SAFETY AND DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR.**

Many schools are hiring additional social workers to meet the needs of students. However, Section 9 mandates that school districts hire one social worker for every 250 students. This type of one-size-fits-all mandate increases educational costs without consideration of the needs of the district and students. We oppose the mandatory nature of this provision.

*COST is an advocacy organization committed to giving small towns a strong voice in the legislative process. Its members are Connecticut towns with populations of less than 30,000. COST champions the major policy needs and concerns of Connecticut’s suburban and rural towns.*

**Connecticut Council of Small Towns**  
1245 Farmington Avenue, 101 West Hartford, CT 06107  
860-676-0770      860-676-2662 Fax