



## ***GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE***

March 12, 2019

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 7159 "An Act Addressing Opioid Use"**

HB 7159, the Governor's proposal to combat the opioid crisis, makes changes to reduce the misuse of prescription opioids, strengthens oversight of prescriptions for opioids, facilitates the use of the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), prohibits discrimination against individuals who use life-saving opioid antagonists and enhances communication between health care practitioners and patients regarding opioid use<sup>1</sup>.

Local leaders recognize the opioid overdose crisis as a major issue, in particular because of its impact on every community in Connecticut. In 2014, CCM created a Drug Abuse Prevention Workgroup which was tasked with examining the growing concern of drug abuse in Connecticut. Through meetings with local and state stakeholders, a set of policy initiatives were developed to help combat the growing epidemic. The Workgroup met regularly with a wide range of partners, service providers, advocates, experts and organizations to gather the broadest possible perspective on the issue. Local leaders continue to collaborate and advocate for policies that will help control this public health crisis.

CCM believes the Governor's proposals outlined in HB 7159 will strengthen current laws and help further combat the opioid crisis. CCM urges support of 7159.



If you have any questions, please contact Zachary McKeown, Legislative Associate of CCM at [zmckeown@ccm-ct.org](mailto:zmckeown@ccm-ct.org) or 860-462-9556.

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<sup>1</sup> Governor Lamont's Fact Sheet HB 7159