



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

March 25, 2019

My name is Rudy Marconi, First Selectman of Ridgefield and CCM Board Member.

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government. Our members represent all 169 towns and cities in Connecticut. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

SB 1057 AN ACT CONCERNING OPIOID USE DISORDER

The bill provides beneficial changes to help combat the opioid epidemic in Connecticut. Among other things, offers those in treatment facilities struggling with addiction education on opioid antagonists (Narcan). This bill also addresses opioid addiction through increase mental health awareness, this is done through ensuring EMS personnel receive mental health first aid training as well hospitals provide mental health evaluation for those that have overdosed.

The proposals path runs parallel to the Governor's proposal to combat the opioid crisis – HB 7159. That proposal 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 (DMP), prohibits discrimination against individuals who use life-saving opioid antagonists and enhances communication between health care practitioners and patients regarding opioid useⁱ.

Local leaders recognize the opioid overdose crisis as a major issue, in particular because of its impact on every community in Connecticut. As mentioned previously, CCM created a Drug Abuse Prevention Workgroup which examines the growing concern of drug abuse in Connecticut. Local leaders continue to collaborate and advocate for polices that will help control this public health crisis.

SB 1057 builds on drug overdose and prevention initiatives adopted in previous years, which have helped our communities respond to this public health crisis. As a state, we must do more to address this crisis, which has devastated individuals and their families in every town in Connecticut.

CCM urges the Committee to **favorably report SB 1057.**

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

ⁱ Governor Lamont's Fact Sheet HB 7159