



**Testimony  
Rudy Marconi  
First Selectman, Town of Ridgefield  
On Behalf of the  
Connecticut Council of Small Towns  
Public Health Committee  
March 25, 2019**

**RE - SB-1057, AN ACT CONCERNING OPIOID USE DISORDER.**

My name is Rudy Marconi, First Selectman of the Town of Ridgefield and President of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST), which represents 110 smaller communities throughout Connecticut.

COST applauds the Public Health Committee for initiating legislation to strengthen the state's efforts to address the opioid crisis by expanding the availability of opioid antagonists and requiring the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to consider establishing a community-based opioid use disorder treatment to provide medication assisted treatment to certain individuals.

SB-1057 and other proposals before the General Assembly, build on drug overdose and prevention initiatives adopted in previous years, which have helped our communities respond to this public health crisis.

According to the state's Chief Medical Examiner, there has been a 2% decrease in fatal drug overdoses in 2018 compared to 2017 and fewer overdose-related emergency room visits. However, rates for opioid overdoses and emergency room visits are still approximately 1.7 times higher than the national rate.

As a state, we must do more to address this crisis, which has devastated individuals and their families in every town in Connecticut.

COST stands ready to work with Governor Lamont and lawmakers to support efforts to confront Connecticut's opioid crisis head on.