



**TESTIMONY**  
of the  
**CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES**  
to the  
**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

March 8, 2010

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 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

***Raised Senate Bill 376 "An Act Concerning Authorization of State Grant Commitments for School Building Projects and Concerning Changes to the Statutes Concerning School Building Projects."***

This bill would fund certain school construction projects (1) listed on the Department of Education's School Construction Priority List, (2) seeking first reauthorization for which the scope has changed, and (3) seeking second reauthorization for which the scope has changed.

School construction projects lay the foundation for our education system. It is important, even in these tough fiscal times, that such projects continue forward. Not only do they ensure quality schools for our children, but they also mean jobs and a stimulus to the economy.

CCM urges the committee to *favorably report* this bill.

***Raised Senate Bill 377 "An Act Concerning School Construction Projects."***

The bill would require a life-cycle cost analysis to accompany any school building project application.

CCM is not familiar with what the cost would be to complete a life-cycle cost analysis and is concerned that this may be a new un-funded mandate on local governments.

While this proposal may be laudable in purpose, towns and cities have recently suffered a \$100 million cut in state aid in this biennium; the State is currently grappling with a \$500-\$700 million current year deficit; and, upwards of \$3 billion deficits faces us in the out years. In addition, as local costs rise *ECS is expected to be "level-funded" with FY 08-09, and only due to federal ARRA funding.*

Until it can be determined that such a requirement will not increase the overall municipal costs, CCM urges the committee to *take no action* on this bill.

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If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver,  
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