



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.

CCM supports Raised Bill 5424 "An Act Permitting Two or More Boards of Education to Jointly Purchase Employee Health Insurance".

This bill would allow local and regional boards of education to join together for the purpose of procuring health insurance for their employees.

The high cost of providing health care to municipal employees is hurting towns and cities across Connecticut. Two years ago CCM formed an Ad Hoc Committee on Municipal Health Care Costs to discuss the present cost-related problems, and to generate ideas for assisting municipalities in coping with them. The Committee's report – endorsed by CCM's Board of Directors and Legislative Committee discusses the problems municipalities face in finding affordable health insurance, steps they have taken to address those costs, and makes recommendations for State action that can help local governments.

One important aspect of those recommendations is to provide local governments with options of which they can voluntarily avail themselves, including joint purchasing with other municipalities. This bill provides such an option. **CCM asks that this bill be (1) expanded to incorporate all facets of municipal government and (2) require the consent of the municipal fiscal authority, which is ultimately responsible for any costs incurred.**

CCM urges the committee to **amend this bill** as suggested above and **favorably report** it.

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If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, Senior Legislative Associate of CCM via email kweaver@ccm-ct.org or via phone (203) 498-3026.