



TESTIMONY  
OF THE  
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES  
TO THE  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

March 4, 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 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to testify before this joint committee on issues of concern to towns and cities.

**SB 312                    "An Act Mandating the Regionalization of Public Safety Emergency Telecommunication Centers"**

SB 312 would mandate the consolidation of *municipal* public safety answering points into *regional* public safety answering points (PSAPs) via a de facto state mandate, by withholding critical funds to hometowns that do not comply with this mandate by the year 2013. SB 312 is the absolute wrong approach – and an unnecessarily blunt stick absent any carrot. Now is not the time for the State to hold local aid hostage – particularly with regard to critical emergency services.

Local law enforcement officials rely on a certain degree of flexibility to (a) ensure the safety of their own communities, and (b) address the unique demands and concerns of their citizens. **CCM appreciates the intent of this bill – regionalization should be encouraged – however, we have concerns about SB 312 as a new, unfunded state mandate on municipalities.** Local officials should be allowed the discretion to determine which PSAPs would work best for their communities – either operated locally or regionally. One size does not fit all in Connecticut.

Therefore, CCM urges the committee to protect towns' local option to determine how best to manage their public safety calls – and to provide, up front, the necessary funding to encourage regional consolidation.

CCM urges the Committee take **no action on SB 312.**



If you have any questions, please call Bob Labanara or Gian-Carl Casa of CCM, at (203) 498-3000