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With three weeks to go in the 2013 session

CCM begins airing radio message today, Monday, May 13 calling on state legislators to say “NO! to NEW UNFUNDED MANDATES.”

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, the statewide association of towns and cities, today (Monday, May 13) began airing a radio spot across the state -- with the 2013 state legislative session in its final weeks -- that calls on state legislators to say “NO! to NEW UNFUNDED MANDATES.”

With just three weeks remaining in the legislative session, state lawmakers continue to consider two unfunded workers’ compensation mandates that would hurt local budgets and drain administrative resources (SB 823 and SB 925).

“CCM is extremely disappointed that these proposed new mandates continue to receive support – despite the pleas from hometown mayors and first selectmen for mandates relief from existing mandates,” said Jim Finley, CCM Executive Director and CEO.

One proposed mandate would automatically presume that heart attacks suffered by firefighters and police officers up to 24 hours of being off duty are job related (SB 925). The second mandate would provide new special benefits for employees suffering emotional distress from “witnessing” the death or maiming of another person, regardless whether such “witnessing” resulted in a physical injury to the

claimant (SB 823). SB 823 would also impact private employers. (See attachments two and three for more detail.)

Click on the attached file to hear the ad. Here is the complete text of the spot:

Person 1: "Hey, I hear it's crunch time at the State Capitol. Just weeks left in the session."

Person 2: "I know. State budget problems, a bad economy...lawmakers must be overwhelmed trying to balance the budget without passing the buck to towns and cities."

Person 1: "Unfortunately, the opposite is happening. Municipal aid is being cut and new costly mandates are being considered."

Person 2: "What?! Municipal aid cuts AND new mandates?!"

Person 1: "Yup. One new mandate gives away workers' comp benefits to all employees suffering certain kinds of mental stress. The other mandate gives away special benefits to paid firefighters suffering off-duty heart attacks."

Person 2: "Huh?! So, a state deficit, proposed cuts in municipal aid...AND new unfunded mandates!? No way: That can't happen!"

Person 1: "Oh, It could happen...unless state lawmakers stand up to special interest groups."

Person 2: "Time to call and email our state legislators and say NO! to NEW UNFUNDED MANDATES."

Person 3: This message is sponsored by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, [The Voice of Local Government](#) ..

On weekdays this radio spot will be airing during morning and afternoon drive times on Hartford based WTIC-AM radio (the largest news radio station in Connecticut).

The same ad is also airing on weekdays throughout the day on nearly 20 radio stations located around the state that are affiliated with the Connecticut Radio Network. These stations include: WICC-AM in Bridgeport; WELI-AM in New Haven; WATR-AM in Waterbury; WSTC-AM in Stamford; WDRC-AM, WMMW-AM, and WWCO-AM in Hartford; WLAD-AM, WINE-AM and WDAQ-FM in Danbury; WZBG-FM in Litchfield; WICH-AM and WMOS-FM in New London; WSNG-AM in Torrington WILI-AM and WMRD-AM in Windham; and WINY-AM in Putnam.