

For Immediate Release

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## **Proposed state budget would maintain overall state aid to towns and cities**

CCM is very appreciative that Governor Malloy has maintained a commitment to property taxpayers by sparing towns and cities from cuts in aid in the major state grants. As a former mayor, the Governor understands that by saying “no” to municipal cuts, he is saying “yes” to property taxpayers. And as the recent state report clearly states, the property tax is the most burdensome and regressive tax paid by residents and businesses.

Due to the fact that some grants are not fully funded, several communities could receive less funding as a result of shifting grant distributions. CCM will work with the Governor and Legislature to ensure that each municipality is held harmless.

The main (categorical) state aid grants that go to all towns and cities are protected from cutbacks: the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Grant; PILOTS for Private Colleges and Hospitals and for State Property; the Pequot/Mohegan Grant, the Town Aid Road (TAR) Grant and the Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP). The Governor’s proposed budget will help restrain property taxes in all communities.

However, CCM is concerned about the fiscal impact of four proposals contained in the budget: (a) requiring towns to pay 100% of Resident State Trooper costs, (b) requiring full day kindergarten, (c) eliminating the public housing PILOT and tax abatement, and (d) requiring all towns to pay a solid waste disposal fee. In addition, the budget contains a \$20 million cut in municipal aid for MORE Commission-related “municipal efficiencies and regional cooperation”.

CCM is eager to work with the Governor and General Assembly to protect municipal aid for all 169 towns, and provide towns and cities meaningful unfunded state mandates relief -- including ensuring legislative oversight regarding draft changes to the Stormwater Sewer Systems (MS4 permit); modifying the requirements for posting legal notices in newspapers; and amending the State’s prevailing wage rate mandate.