



## ***CHILDREN’S COMMITTEE***

March 2, 2021

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut’s statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent 100% of Connecticut’s population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

### **HB 6511 “An Act Requiring Background Checks for Youth Sports Coaches, Trainers and Instructors”**

HB 6511 would require youth sports coaches, instructors and athletic trainers who are eighteen years of age or older to submit to a comprehensive background check.

CCM takes the safety and health of children living in our communities very seriously. It is important to ensure that everyone involved in youth sports is safe and coaches, trainers, and instructors are qualified; however, CCM has some concerns with the proposed language outlined in HB 6511, specifically the provisions that restrict a municipalities ability to send out an RFP to contract out for the fingerprinting initiative outlined in the bill and forces municipalities to use the state as the sole provider of fingerprinting services.

In addition to the mandate restricting a municipality’s ability to contract out with a third party for fingerprinting services, it most likely will create staffing problems because of the delays associated in the turnaround of results processed by the state, which currently are at least eight weeks.

We would ask the committee to give the municipality the flexibility to purchase these on the open market. The increased costs, coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic, could potentially adversely affect the availability of recreational sports, especially in communities where affordable recreational opportunities are critical for our youth and families and we respectfully, ask the committee take into consideration these concerns.



If you have any questions, please contact Zachary McKeown of CCM at [zmckeown@ccm-ct.org](mailto:zmckeown@ccm-ct.org)