



THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT



June 11, 2009

The Honorable Christopher Donovan
Speaker of the House
Legislative Office Building
Room 4100
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Speaker Donovan:

As you, the Governor, and other General Assembly leaders discuss a state budget package, we urge you to support legislation that would grant local governments the ability to re-open their budgets to make adjustments due to the federal ARRA education stabilization program.

Section 19 of SB 939 of the recent session provided such language, but failed to pass as the session drew to a close. That language would have provided that:

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any special act, municipal charter, home rule ordinance or other ordinance, the board of finance in each town having a board of finance, the board of selectmen in each town having no board of finance or the authority making appropriations for the school district for each town may reduce its budgeted appropriation to the local or regional board of education by an amount up to the limit of funds received directly by such board from the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund pursuant to Title XIV of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, P. L. 111-5, for such fiscal year, provided that upon passage of the municipal budget prior to June 30, 2009, such board of finance or such authority making appropriations for the school district for each town failed to account for the direct provision of such fiscal stabilization funds to such local or regional boards of education.

Without such a change, there could be significant financial crises across the state. Many municipalities have adopted their budgets and no longer have the ability to amend them. They thus have a legal obligation to send their boards of education all of the funding appropriated in those adopted budgets – but as the equivalent of 14% of their ECS allocations would go directly to the boards (from the federal government) rather than to the town as part of the ECS grant, the municipal fiscal authority would face a 14% revenue shortfall.

Passage of this legislation is critical to municipalities across the state. We urge you to work together towards passage of this language, and stand ready to support your efforts to do so in any way necessary.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

James J. Finley, Jr.
Executive Director and CEO
CCM

Joseph Cirsuolo
Executive Director
CT Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS)

cc: Representative Denise Merrill



June 11, 2009

The Honorable John McKinney
Senate Minority Leader
Legislative Office Building
Room 3402
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator McKinney:

As you, the Governor, and other General Assembly leaders discuss a state budget package, we urge you to support legislation that would grant local governments the ability to re-open their budgets to make adjustments due to the federal ARRA education stabilization program.

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June 11, 2009

The Honorable Donald Williams, Jr.
Senate President Pro Tempore
Legislative Office Building
Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Williams:

As you, the Governor, and other General Assembly leaders discuss a state budget package, we urge you to support legislation that would grant local governments the ability to re-open their budgets to make adjustments due to the federal ARRA education stabilization program.

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Executive Director and CEO
CCM

Joseph Cirsuolo
Executive Director
CT Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS)

cc: Senator Martin Looney



THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT



June 11, 2009

The Honorable M. Jodi Rell
Governor of Connecticut
Executive Chambers
State Capitol Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Rell:

As you and the General Assembly discuss a state budget package, we urge you to support legislation that would grant local governments the ability to re-open their budgets to make adjustments due to the federal ARRA education stabilization program.

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Joseph Cirsuolo
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CT Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS)

cc: Legislative Leaders



THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT



June 11, 2009

The Honorable Lawrence Cafero, Jr.
House Minority Leader
Legislative Office Building
Room 4200
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Representative Cafero:

As you, the Governor, and other General Assembly leaders discuss a state budget package, we urge you to support legislation that would grant local governments the ability to re-open their budgets to make adjustments due to the federal ARRA education stabilization program.

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