



Erick Russell

CONNECTICUT STATE TREASURER

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Treasurer Russell Statement on Creation of CCM 119K Commission on At-Risk and Disconnected Youth

Treasurer Erick Russell issued the following statement on Wednesday in response to the launch of the [119K Commission on At-Risk and Disconnected Youth](#), an initiative by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) to re-engage young people with education and the workforce. An estimated 119,000 young people are currently either disconnected from employment or have dropped out of school, or are in danger of dropping out. The Commission, led by municipal leaders, will hold a series of meetings across the state to gather data and feedback that will inform policy recommendations later this year.

“Getting disconnected and at-risk young people back on track is essential not only to their individual wellbeing and future prospects, but also to Connecticut’s long-term financial health. We’re at our strongest when everyone is participating, both in the economy and within their communities. Letting even one child slip through the cracks is a tragedy, and 119,000 disconnected youth is an emergency. We should attack this issue with the urgency it deserves, knowing that the longer we wait, the more young people will be added to that number.

“I applaud CCM and municipal leaders for rising to the occasion and committing to doing this work. There is no singular cause for youth becoming disengaged and there’s no singular solution. Instead, there is a need for collaboration and research that spans state and municipal government, nonprofits, and local schools. The broad range of expert input and public feedback sought by the Commission will help shape comprehensive strategies specifically tailored to address the needs of these young people and their families. Paired with [recently introduced legislation](#) to collect and analyze data, policymakers will be equipped with information necessary to develop solutions.”

Treasurer Russell’s testimony on HB 5213: An Act Concerning Disconnected Youth can be [found here](#).

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