

DANBURY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S COUNCIL

P.O. Box 1135
Danbury, Ct. 06813

===== TWELVE COMPANIES =====
PADANARAM CITIZENS BECKERLE MILL PLAIN
INDEPENDENT WATER WITCH GERMANTOWN MIRY BROOK
WOOSTER PHOENIX BEAVER BROOK KING STREET

March 7, 2007

Honorable Senator Edith Prague, Representative Kevin Ryan, Co-Chairpersons of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

The Danbury Volunteer Firemen's Council, is supporting House Bill #7318 supporting workers' compensation coverage for Volunteer Firefighters. We feel the awarding of compensation is now inconsistent, capricious and subjective as to how it is being applied to volunteer firefighters injured while performing firefighting-related duties, training or performing general maintenance at firehouses. Current state statutes dictate how the insurance carriers determine present coverage. Coverage can be awarded or denied subjectively. Two similar incidents are treated as unique without precedent with totally opposing or contrary decisions.

We support a program that more fairly determines what and who is covered by workers' compensation. A firefighter (paid or volunteer) performing firefighting-related duties should be safeguarded by objectively-determined coverage, fairly applied on a consistent basis.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns.

Sincerely,

Charles Coakley
President
Danbury Volunteer Firemen's Council