

**UNIFORMED PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT**

**AFFILIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS**

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March 11, 2010

Dear Senator Prague, Representative Ryan and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

My name is Paul J. Rapanault. I am the Director of Legislative and Political Affairs for the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association of Connecticut. Our 4,000 members serve in 50 fire departments throughout the state.

I am addressing you today in **OPPOSITION** to **H.B. No. 5062 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, PENSIONS AND HEALTH CARE.**

This bill would reduce the number of arbitrators assigned to Binding Arbitration Panels from three to one. In so doing, the balance and fair representation afforded each side in the arbitration process would be lost to one single "neutral" party. Neither side would have an "advocate" in the proceedings who could help to clarify issues left unclear during the hearings.

I refer you to the testimony of **Vince Fusco, Dan Wasilewski, Tom DiScipio and Bob Hyde** who have testified on behalf of the UPFFA. Their testimony adequately states the position of the UPFFA and I encourage your attention to it.

We urge your **OPPOSITION** of this important legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul J Rapanault  
Legislative/Political Affairs