



Ashford Volunteer Fire Department

PO Box 1, Ashford, CT 06278

Chief Wayne C. Fletcher
P.O.Box 1
Ashford, CT. 06278
(860) 429-4923

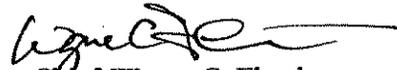
Members of The Public Safety Committee,

My name is Chief Wayne C. Fletcher of the Ashford Volunteer Fire Department. I have been active in the fire service for over thirty five years. I'm currently the chief of a combination department of thirty five volunteers and six paid part-time personal in the town of Ashford.

The purpose of my written testimony is to support SB 551. Currently there is a Public Act (03-249) which only applies to employees of the State of Connecticut, that also happen to be volunteer firefighters and /or emergency medical technicians. This public act offers the ability (with prior authorization from the employer) of an employee to leave work in order to respond to fire and ambulance calls. It also protects the employee that may respond to emergency calls before reporting to work, causing the employee to arrive to work late, from suffering negative consequences. I believe all volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians should receive the same protection, regardless of who their employer is within the State of Connecticut.

As the manager of an emergency services department who has state employees that are covered by this public act, this has not only benefitted the employee, but also the public that is served by the service provided by these individuals. An extension of this type public act (with the same approval requirements) to the private sector would be appropriate and cost effective to the public we both serve. I therefore completely support SB-551 and urge your committee to vote favorably to move this process forward. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,


Chief Wayne C. Fletcher