

UNIFORMED PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT

AFFILIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

30 Sherman Street, West Hartford, CT 06110

Office: (860) 953-3200 Office Fax: (860) 953-3334

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Peter S. Carozza, Jr., *President*

Louis P. DeMici, *Secretary*

Robert P. Anthony, *Treasurer*



PAUL J. RAPANAULT

DIRECTOR

Legislative / Political Affairs

5 Oak Hill Drive

North Branford, CT 06471

(203) 934-0105

March 10, 2011

Dear Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski 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 4,500 members serve in 60 fire departments throughout the state.

I am addressing you today in **OPPOSITION** of the following bills;

S.B. No. 989 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING RESERVE FUND BALANCES AND CHANGES TO MUNICIPAL BINDING ARBITRATION – if this bill were to pass, municipalities would essentially have a permanent “lock box” into which they could hide surplus funds far in excess of those needed to protect the towns bonding ability. The testimony of Vince Fusco of the Hartford Fire Fighters is fully supported by the UPFFA and serves as our position on this proposed legislation.

S.B. No. 990 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PREVAILING RATE OF WAGES - the prevailing wage law in Connecticut creates a high-wage, high-productivity and high-quality development path that benefits construction workers and their families, other Connecticut workers and their families, as well as the state of Connecticut's coffers. Without regulation, competitive pressures force the industry to adopt an inferior equilibrium along a low-wage, low-productivity, and low-quality path. Claims of large public savings from a suspension of Connecticut's prevailing wage law are not supported by the evidence. In contrast, the State of Connecticut will face substantial short- and long-term public costs if there is a moratorium of the prevailing wage law. (Peter Phillips, Cihan Bilginsoy)

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul J Rapanault
Legislative/Political Affairs