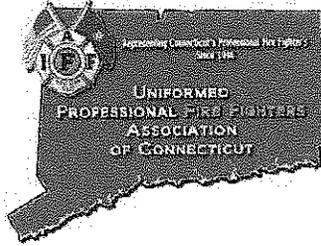


UNIFORMED PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT  
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PAUL J. RAPANAULT  
DIRECTOR  
Legislative/Political Affairs

February 7, 2013

Good afternoon Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. My name is Paul Rapanault. I am the Director of Legislation/Political Affairs of the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters of Connecticut. The UPFFA represents 4,000 career fire fighters, Emergency Medical Technicians and dispatchers in nearly 60 municipal and state local unions.

I am here today to support two bills before you.

**House Bill 5278 AN ACT AUTHORIZING FIREFIGHTERS TO CONDUCT CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING BOOT DRIVES ON STATE HIGHWAYS** requires the Department of Transportation to issue special event permits to fire departments that request them in order for members of the department to conduct "fill the boot" fundraising drives on state highways. Fire fighters are involved in many charitable activities during the course of the year but no cause is more associated with fire fighters than our Muscular Dystrophy "Fill the Boot" campaigns. The IAFF has adopted the MDA as our official charitable activity and our "street" collection activities are most important to these efforts. To the extent that this bill will facilitate DOT cooperation in any way, this bill will be helpful. **We SUPPORT THIS BILL.**

**House Bill 5542 AN ACT REQUIRING THE DISPLAY OF HOUSE NUMBERS** is common sense legislation. The simple act of placing house numbers in a readily viewable place on our residences could be the difference between help arriving at the scene of an emergency in a timely manner or arriving several minutes too late. The three to four minutes it takes emergency crews to drive by an unmarked home and turn around are critical to successfully administering Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation and other time sensitive emergency procedures. **We SUPPORT THIS BILL.**

Thank you for your consideration of these issues and I would be glad to answer any question.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Rapanault".

Paul J Rapanault  
DIRECTOR  
Legislative/Political Affairs

Walter M. O'Connor, *President Emeritus*  
Santo J. Alleano, Jr., *Vice President Emeritus*

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