



**State of Connecticut**  
**CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**Testimony for the Appropriations Committee on the Governor's Proposed Cuts for  
the State's Fire Training Schools**  
**Feb. 24, 2015**

We are writing to members of the Joint Appropriations Committee regarding the proposed cuts contained in Gov. Malloy's 2015-17 biennial budget to the state's nine Fire Training Schools. Collectively, we represent the Naugatuck Valley towns and cities of Ansonia, Beacon Falls Seymour and Derby. The cuts for the nine training facilities amount to \$743,899.

The proposed cut to the Derby training school is \$35,283. On the surface, this specific loss of revenue may not seem like a huge cut in the overall spectrum of the state's two-year, \$40 billion budget. However, the effect of eliminating all state aid for our training sites represents a huge blow to Connecticut's public safety.

Each year hundreds of firefighters and front line responders receive vital training at the schools and that has proved critical to maintaining and bolstering our emergency response efforts. These training regimens are not duplicated anywhere else in Connecticut. Our individual firefighting units rely heavily upon the facilities to upgrade the skills and certifications of their members.

We believe that the state should be putting more resources into the system, not less, and stand prepared to craft alternatives to the current budget proposal that would be acceptable compromises. Given the current fiscal status of our towns and cities and the uncertain outcomes of our local budget processes, we are concerned that there will not be sufficient municipal revenues to offset the loss of state funds.

Our local emergency responders sacrifice greatly to keep our communities safe; we should honor that commitment.

We urge you as members of the committee to consider an alternative path forward as the budget process unfolds in the coming weeks and months.

State Rep. Themis Klarides 114<sup>th</sup> District  
State. Rep. Linda Gentile 104<sup>th</sup> District  
State Re. Theresa Conroy 105<sup>th</sup> District

State Sen. Joseph Crisco 17<sup>th</sup> District