

February 25, 2015

Opposition HB 6824 (Regional Fire Schools Funding)

Committee Members,

As a firefighter in the state of Connecticut for 35 years moving to the rank of Assistant Chief of a volunteer fire organization protecting the citizens, visitors and property of the Simsbury Fire District as well as the neighboring communities I'm writing to show my opposition to HB 6824 in regard to the Governor's removal of funding for the regional fire schools in his proposed budget.

As one of the many firefighters who have benefited from the regional fire school programs such as the all-important Firefighter I & II fire certification programs I'm fully aware of the benefit of having regional fire schools providing firefighters the ability to learn the essential core cognitive and psychomotor skills to perform the job function of a firefighter. Another added benefit of the regional fire schools is allowing new firefighters to be trained in classes that are readily available in the area and limited in size classes so these firefighters get the proper training before putting themselves into a fire or emergency response.

Budgets across the state will be effected with the removal of the funding for regional schools. The training of firefighters is one of the larger cost in fire departments budgets. With this decrease of funds it would have an impact of the local fire departments brining on new firefighters which ultimately would have an impact on the level of protection provided for our citizens, visitors and properties in Connecticut.

Please keep the regional fire schools funded. With the ever changing world we live in today we need to ensure our first responders and trained to deal with any emergency that is presented. The regional fire schools provide such training at a reasonable cost and great success record.

Thank you for your consideration,



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