

# Enfield Fire District No. 1

Organized in 1896

Headquarters  
**Fire Station No. 1**  
200 Phoenix Avenue  
Enfield, CT 06082  
Tel. (860) 745-1878  
FAX (860) 745-7114

**Chief**  
**Edward N. Richards**

Training Center  
**Fire Station No. 2**  
199 Weymouth Road  
Enfield, CT 06082  
Tel. (860) 741-3114  
FAX (860) 741-3204

February 25, 2015

Re: HB #6824

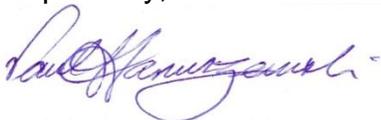
Honorable Legislators;

I am writing on behalf of the fifty-six members of the Enfield Fire Department to voice opposition to the Governor's budget proposal to slash funding for the Regional Fire Training Schools. America's first responders, especially the firefighters are the critical backbone of emergency response and often serve as the initial and long-term leaders for a multitude of emergency incident types. Try and think of one incident type that does not in some way rely on or utilize the firefighters! To slash funding of the fire training centers that are a critical component for the professionalism and expertise of our firefighters and fire department leaders is tantamount to discarding the first responders as meaningless and assuming we no longer need to ensure preparedness for any emergencies no matter the size, type or significance.

Would you slash funding of the regional and state police training schools? Of course not. Do we not need firefighters and fire officers serving our communities that are thoroughly trained to perform the multitude of tasks they respond to on a daily basis? Of course we do. So why consider slashing funding that is critical to ensuring the firefighters that could be showing up at your home, your office building, your motor vehicle wreck, your medical emergency or the next significant hazardous materials accident or terrorist act are the best trained first responders that this State can develop?

Thank you for your consideration on behalf of all the fifty-six firefighters serving the 22,000 citizens of southern Enfield, we are counting on you restore all funding to the Regional Fire Training Schools and fulfill promises made to improve them.

Respectfully,



Paul J. Januszewski  
Deputy Chief / Training Officer