

Dear Co-Chairs Bye, Walker, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee;

As a volunteer firefighter in the City of Ansonia I would like to go on the record with my concerns to the Appropriations Committee's public hearing on House Bill #6824 aka Budget Bill regarding cuts/defunding of the Regional Fire Schools. These schools are vital in the preparation and training of volunteer firefighters throughout the state for the perils of their duties; saving lives and removing them from harms way, as well as mitigating property damage. Fire and other hazards we deal with daily are dangerous and life threatening. Enabling us to train in a controlled, well supervised environment, provided to us as volunteers by the Regional Fire Schools prepares us to face these perils. Without the training and experience gained through our Regional Fire Schools we put ourselves in grave danger as a spectacular fire ravages a home, apartment building or business. Primary to the training provided by our regional schools is not only firefighting; how to put the fire out, but personal safety, search and rescue, as well as dealing with other hazards and events too numerous to mention.

I ask that you continue to fund the construction and operating costs of our Regional Fire Schools.

My best regards,
Edward C. Norman
Ansonia Fire Department, Volunteer Firefighter
Charters Hose Co #4