

Honorable Committee Members:

In regards to the HB 6824 budget bill, please accept this as my personal testimony against the cuts to the funding of the regional fire schools. The Willimantic Fire Department relies heavily on the neighboring volunteer fire departments for mutual aid during times of crisis. In that we expect them to send us trained, qualified, and certified firefighters, the continued funding of the regional fire schools is critical. Most the area volunteer fire departments operate on a shoestring budget, often raising operating funds with bingo, chicken barbeques, fund-drives, etc., and cannot sustain a large increase to their tuition at the regional schools.

If the operating funds for the regional fire schools is cut or eliminated, the ability of the Willimantic FD to fulfill our mission will be negatively impacted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Marc A. Scrivener, BSBM, MM, 26.2

Fire Chief

President - CT Fire Chiefs Association - 2015

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