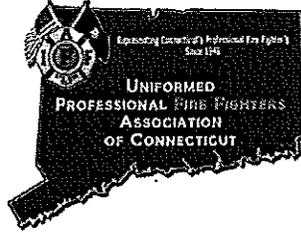


UNIFORMED PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT  
AFFILIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS  
30 Sherman Street, West Hartford, CT 06110  
Office: (860) 953-3200 Office Fax: (860) 953-3334

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Peter S. Carozza, Jr., *President*  
Richard Hart, Director  
Legislative/Political Affairs



Louis P. DeMici, *Secretary*  
Robert P. Anthony, *Treasurer*

Tuesday March 3, 2015

Good afternoon, Honorable Chairmen Rep Tercyak, Sen. Gomes, Honorable members of the Labor and Public Employee Committee, my name is Richard Hart. I represent the Uniformed Professional Firefighters Association of Connecticut which represents 60 Local affiliates of the International Association of Firefighters. Membership in the UPPFA is comprised of approximately 4,000 Union firefighters in Connecticut.

I am submitting testimony in **support** of HB 6873 An Act Concerning Injured Volunteer Firefighters and Sick Leave Benefits.

Numerous career firefighters volunteer in their hometown in order to provide their experience and expertise. All volunteer to help their neighbor, a tradition that dates back to Colonial days. When an employee accrues sick and vacation leave and is injured off duty, it is their property to use as they see fit, provided its use is not abused and is within collective bargaining agreements. It is not up to the employer to first grant the leave, then take it back along with seniority and then demand repayment of the sick leave used. There is simply no reason to prohibit or punish an employee for volunteering their time. In today's environment, isn't it prudent to allow employees their right to help their neighbor? This will only foster better employee/employer relations and goodwill in the community.

Please move HB 6873 forward.

Richard Hart

*Richard Hart*

DIRECTOR  
Legislative/Political Affairs