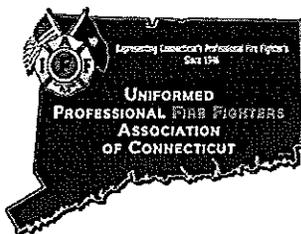


UNIFORMED PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT
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Louis P. DeMici, *Secretary*
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February 12, 2015

Good afternoon, Honorable Chairmen Rep. Miller and Sen. Osten, Honorable members of the Planning and Development Committee, my name is Richard Hart. I represent the Uniformed Professional Firefighters Association of Connecticut which represents 43 Local affiliates of the International Association of Firefighters. Membership in the UPFFA is comprised of approximately 4,000 Union firefighters in Connecticut.

I am speaking writing in *support* of SB 799 An Act Concerning the South Fire District of Middletown. By eliminating the Connecticut Valley Hospital Fire Department (CVHFD), the State has increased the response burden on the South District Fire Department (SDFD) by adding a long term, chronic care facility to their responsibilities. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1710, Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Services, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments states, "240 seconds or less travel time for the arrival of the first arriving engine company at a fire suppression incident." The result is a greater distance traveled, thus an increase in response times, and increased wear and tear on the apparatus. The department also has not seen a commensurate increase in manpower to offset the loss of the manpower staffing the CVHFD. The extra monetary burden placed upon the SDFD for manpower and apparatus maintenance as a result of the disbanding of the CVHFD, along with the potential for response units being unavailable for response within the SDFD fire district is unsustainable. The State should increase PILOT directly to the SDFD to offset the increase workload and potential safety issues of inadequate staffing on a fire scene. The SDFD has borne the full fiscal responsibility of providing fire and emergency services to a State facility with no compensation. Thank you.

Richard Hart

Richard Hart

DIRECTOR
Legislative/Political Affairs

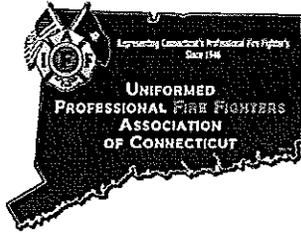
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I am speaking writing in *opposition* of An Act Prohibiting Municipal Employees from Serving on Certain Municipal Legislative Bodies. The general premise of Democracy is equal representation for all people and The Declaration of Independence states, "Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." By excluding any member of the population from serving in their government is a violation of that sacred code. A member may recuse themselves from a vote that they may have a vested interest in. It is a fundamental right of all Americans to participate in their government.

Thank you.

Richard Hart

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