



# New York State Professional Fire Fighters Association, Inc.

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June 21, 2012

RE: An act to amend the retirement and social security law, in relation to providing three-quarters of pension for police and firefighters who contract methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus

## MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

S-7209 (Libous)  
A-5739-A (Abbate)

**Submitted on behalf of the New York State Professional Firefighters Association I.A.F.F. AFL-CIO.**

The New York State Professional Firefighters Association (NYSPPFA), I.A.F.F. AFL-CIO, a not-for-profit association representing approximately 18,000 firefighters in 102 Locals in various cities, villages and towns across New York State, strongly supports enactment and chapter of this legislation which would provide a three-quarters pension benefit for police officers and firefighters who contract methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).

Specifically, this legislation would provide a necessary benefit at a negligible cost according to the New York State Police and Fire Retirement System's actuarial analysis.

Due to the increased exposure which police officers and firefighters have to individuals who have MRSA and to protect the families of those police officers and firefighters who are so exposed, a presumption that the individual is disabled from the performance of duties is warranted.

Under current law, police officers' and firefighters who suffer similar blood borne employment related disabilities such as tuberculosis, hepatitis, or HIV, are able to receive a three-quarters accidental disability benefit. This legislation would extend such benefit to those police officers and firefighters who contract MRSA in the line of duty.

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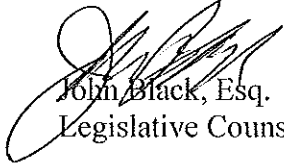
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### CHAPLAIN

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Therefore, the New York State Professional Firefighters Association strongly supports both the passage and chapter of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Black', is written over the typed name.

John Black, Esq.  
Legislative Counsel to the NYSPFFA