



## New York State Professional Fire Fighters Association, Inc.

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September 12, 2018

Alphonso David  
Counsel to the Governor  
Executive Chamber  
New York State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

### LETTER IN SUPPORT

RE: *A.10832 (Weinstein)/S.8871 (Young) – AN ACT making an appropriation to the common retirement fund account for payment of services and expenses related to the administration of the New York state and local employees' retirement system and the New York state and local police and fire retirement system*

Dear Mr. David:

The New York State Professional Fire Fighters Association (NYSPFFA), I.A.F.F. AFL-CIO, a not-for-profit association representing approximately 18,000 fire fighters in 107 Locals in various cities, villages, and towns across New York State, strongly supports enactment of this legislation, which will appropriate \$9,181,000 for various improvements and streamlined processes to the administration of the New York State Local Employees' Retirement System and the New York State and Local Police and Fire Retirement System.

Specifically, the aforementioned monies will be dedicated to adding additional and necessary staffing to address the continued growth of participants in the state retirement system with an increased focus on improving customer service. Moreover, the Sponsor's Memorandum in Support notes that this appropriation would "assure timely customer service in areas that support the processing of World Trade Center related disability retirement and death benefit cases."

The NYSPFFA and its membership wholeheartedly support efforts by the State Comptroller to increase staffing and expedite their processing, particularly with regard to administrative hearings. The enactment of A.10832/S.8871 will help to mitigate some of the longstanding delays of cases that NYSPFFA members have witnessed. As the number of New York State retirees within the system continues to rise, this proactive legislation is needed now.

SAMUEL A. FRESINA  
President

JAMES J. MCGOWAN  
Secretary-Treasurer

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REV. JOHN TALLMAN  
40 Collins Place  
Albany, NY 12208



Therefore, NYSPFFA strongly supports the enactment of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Fresina', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Samuel A. Fresina, President

New York State Professional Fire Fighters Association