

[DATE]

Alphonso David
Counsel
Office of Counsel to the Governor
New York State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

LETTER IN SUPPORT

RE: *A.8057-B (Abbate) – AN ACT to amend the civil service law, in relation to the minimum qualifications to serve as a fire chief in any fire department, fire district or fire protection district that employs five or more paid firefighters*

Dear Mr. David:

As [CHOOSE ONE: a firefighter employed by _____ / members of NAME OF UNION], [I/we] strongly urge the Governor to enact this legislation that would require certain minimal training standards for fire chiefs in departments that have at least five paid fire fighters.

Specifically, this bill would require that fire chiefs in “combination departments” (departments with both paid professional and volunteer firefighters) satisfy basic requirements for education, health and physical fitness as established by the state fire administrator; completed minimum training and education contact hour criteria; and, be certified for supervisory level 1 or higher according to New York State regulations.

This legislation does not apply to fire departments in New York City, nor does it affect departments that are completely volunteer.

The enactment this law is necessary to protect the health and safety of all fire fighters involved in fire situations, but more importantly to ensure that the communities that are served by combination fire departments have fire chiefs that are adequately trained and prepared for fires or other catastrophic events.

For the foregoing reasons, [I/we] strongly support the enactment of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

[NAME]