



New York State Professional Fire Fighters Association, Inc.

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REV. JOHN TALLMAN
40 Collins Place
Albany, NY 12208

May 29, 2024

RE: AN ACT to amend the retirement and social security law,
in relation to increasing the amount of years of military
service credit a member may purchase

S.5618-C (Thomas)

A.5936 (Sillitti)

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

The New York State Professional Fire Fighters Association (NYSPPFA), I.A.F.F. AFL-CIO, a not-for-profit association representing 18,000 fire fighters in 110 Locals in various cities, villages, and towns across New York State, strongly supports the enactment of this legislation, which will increase the number of years of military service credit that public employees can purchase or “buy back” from 3 years to 4 years.

Presently, the Military Service Credit Law of 2000, Chapter 548 of the Laws of 2000, and Chapter 547 of the Laws of 2002, authorizes up to three (3) years of service credit in the public retirement system for a public employee’s honorable military service.

For nearly the last two generations, the United States of America has relied upon our citizens to voluntarily enlist to serve in its military. These individuals who step up and answer the call are vital to ensuring this Nation’s readiness to protect our borders and citizens during times of war and peace. However, only a minuscule fraction of Americans have answered our Nation’s call. Those veterans currently in active public employment should be recognized for their selfless military service.

Moreover, the military experience and skills of fire fighters have shown to significantly contribute to and increase the professionalism and effectiveness of fire districts and fire departments throughout the state. In addition to recognizing New York State veterans for their service, this legislation would assist in recruiting and retaining these highly qualified veterans to continue serving and protecting the public.

Therefore, NYSPPFA strongly supports the enactment of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel A. Fresina, President

New York State Professional Fire Fighters Association

AFFILIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS IAFF, AFL, CIO, NEW YORK STATE - AFL-CIO

