



Everyone,

The feedback that I have received from members of the Fire Service is that the first two meetings of the Fire EMS Caucus have gone very well. For those who could not attend and have not yet viewed the proceedings, the meetings are available to see on the following links:

1st Fire EMS Caucus Meeting on December 19th, 2017

<http://www.ctn.state.ct.us/ctnplayer.asp?odID=14831>

2nd Fire EMS Caucus meeting on January 9th, 2018

<http://www.ctn.state.ct.us/ctnplayer.asp?odID=14876>

The bipartisan Co-Chairs of the caucus of legislators appointed by unanimous decision four sub-committee chairpersons to serve in the following areas:

Education: Rep. Brian Ohler (R)

EMS : Rep. Pat Boyd (D)

Labor: Rep. Liz Lenihan (D)

Fire Marshals/Regulations: Rep. Ben McGorty (R)

The Co-Chairs, Representatives Boyd and Ohler, reported that the number of legislators who have volunteered for the Fire EMS Caucus is about forty. I will provide a list of those representatives and senators once it is available. Approximately 20 legislators were present for the second meeting of the caucus.

The Co-Chairs, asked Greg Allard of American Ambulance to speak about his position as Chairman of the OEMS Advisory Board. The Co-Chairs also gave Jeff Morrissette, the State Fire Administrator a chance to make an impromptu presentation about his responsibilities as well. Additionally, Chief Marc Scrivener, co-president of the CT Career Chiefs provided the caucus with his perspective, experience and views. Chief Scrivener also shared information about his organization's most recent efforts to help implement standardized testing for employment in the Fire Service here in Connecticut.

Rep. Catherine Abercrombie pointed out to the caucus that time already running out to organize legislation that needs to be submitted for the upcoming short session. She also elicited the importance of finding funding sources that do not attempt to draw money from already tightly pressed sources.

The next Fire EMS Caucus meeting is set for Tues. February 6th, 2018 at 10AM at the LOB in Room 1E.

I ask that we make every effort to make a few things happen prior to this event:

1. Reach out to the respective Fire EMS Sub-Committee Chairperson regarding issues for which your organization would like to see legislation passed in the upcoming session. (FYI, "Cancer" and "PTSD" fall under "Labor".) We need to start working on new legislation to be proposed **NOW**.
2. **Make every attempt NOW to spread the word and save-the-date for the Feb. 6th meeting.** Attendance from the Fire Service dropped 50% from the first caucus meeting to the second. The last thing we want to ever have happen at a Fire EMS Caucus meeting is to have legislators outnumber the Fire Service at the meeting. We were about even last time. It is most important that we pack the room at this third meeting because after that event, there are just 3 days left for proposed legislation to be submitted before deadline. CSFA and the UPPFA will work together to make sure the meeting is well attended by our memberships. Legislators need to see that we care! **Class A Uniforms, please, if you can attend.**
3. Urge your local legislators to join the caucus if they have not already done so.

I have also provided the co-chairs of the caucus with the legislative proposals for the upcoming session from DAS and DESPP. Some good news out of these 2 packages is that a smoke detector bill has now been proposed by DAS and likely now has a better chance with the support of the agency behind it. I have attached both agency's legislative proposal packages to this update.

Again, please make every attempt to be at the FIRE EMS Caucus meeting on February 6th. A strong showing of unified support from members of the Fire Service will only help us in our efforts.

I'd like to thanks everyone for helping us to get where we are at this point.

Sincerely,

Leon Collins

Legislative Representative
The Connecticut State Firefighters Association
49 Midwood Road
Branford, CT 06405
(203) 494-7842 voice and text
(203) 481-1446 fax
collins@csfa.org email
<http://csfa.org> website

