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Written Testimony in Support Of:

S.B. No. 1239 - AN ACT CONCERNING A FALLEN OFFICER AND FIREFIGHTER FUND AND PROVIDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE TO SURVIVORS OF A FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Senator Gaston, Representative Boyd, Senator Cicarella, Representative Howard, and members of the Public Safety Committee:

I am here today to voice my strong support for S.B. No. 1239, An Act Concerning A Fallen Officer and Firefighter Fund and Providing Health Insurance Coverage to Survivors of a Firefighter Killed in the Line of Duty.

I am proud to have worked with this committee and the legislature last year to create the Fallen Officer Fund.

As the son and brother of police officers, it's an honor to administer this fund. However, I am also the grandson of a New Haven firefighter and the son-in-law of an EMT.

The men and women of both the fire service and our emergency medical service equally put themselves in harms way for our state every day and in my opinion their families also deserve eligibility for support in the event that their loved one loses their life protecting and serving our state.

To that end, I respectfully request two changes to the bill.

First, I recommend that we change the title of the Fund to the "Fallen Hero Fund" so that it is a more-encompassing title.

Second, I recommend that in addition to adding firefighters, we also add emergency medical technicians and paramedics to the list of eligible first responders.

Thank you for your consideration of these changes and I look forward to working with the committee on this bill in whatever form it moves forward in.

All the best,



Sean Scanlon
State Comptroller