

1.

[Fire Department Letterhead]

November 7, 2016

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Volunteer Firefighters' Benefit Law  
Permanent Disability Improvement Bill

Dear Gov. Cuomo:

An important bill, S1000D / A5113C, has just been called to your desk. This bill, which is sponsored by State Senator Rich Funke and Assemblyman Joseph Morelle, would increase the VFBL benefit for permanently disabled firefighters from \$400 to \$600 per week. The firefighters of the Bedford Village Fire Department fully support this bill and urge you to sign it into law.

This particular benefit has not seen an increase since 2007, nearly a decade ago. Since then, the economy has suffered and the cost of living has steadily risen. This increase would be tremendously helpful for those bravest who have sacrificed their livelihoods for the safety of others. Furthermore, these are firefighters who have volunteered to protect their communities, willingly giving up their time, their safety, and their health in service of their friends, families, and neighbors.

Michael Nicholson is a perfect example of why this bill is necessary. Michael was 17 years old, and a young firefighter in Bushnell's Basin when he was struck by a car while operating at an emergency incident. He has been permanently disabled ever since.

Signing this bill into law is not only the necessary thing to do, but the right thing to do. We urge you to sign the bill and make it into law.

Very truly yours,

The Members of the \_\_\_\_\_ Fire Department

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
President Chief