

June 18, 2026

Dear Assemblyman Burdick,

Hudson Valley firefighters are writing to strongly support A7285A, the First Responder Peer Support Program Act, which is currently on tomorrow's Assembly Mental Health Committee agenda.

First responders are routinely exposed to traumatic events, chronic stress, and cumulative emotional strain in the course of protecting our communities. Peer support programs provide a critical, evidence-informed resource that allows firefighters, EMS personnel, law enforcement officers, and other first responders to seek support from trained peers who understand the unique challenges of the profession.

Establishing protections and strengthening access to peer support services will help reduce stigma, encourage early intervention, and improve the mental health and well-being of those who serve the public every day.

We respectfully urge your support for A7285A and appreciate your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,