



County of York
Emergency Management Agency
Office of the Chief Fire Administrator
149 Jordan Springs Road
Alfred, ME 04002



131st Maine Legislature
Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

March 17, 2023

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF LD588

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing in support of LD 588 *An Act to Promote Public Safety and Retain Essential First Responders by Funding the Maine Length of Service Award Program.*

In April of 2003, the Maine State Fire Protection Services Commission conducted its first look into a Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) for Maine. For the past 20-years Maine's volunteer and call firefighters have been fighting for this program. While we've been advocating for LOSAP, our ranks have continued to decline. If LOSAP was implemented and properly funded 5, 10 or 15 years ago, would we be in a better position today? We may never know. Will LOSAP change the current direction? Who knows? There is not one single solution to the problem of recruitment and retention of Firefighters and EMTs. LOSAP is one tool. A very powerful addition to our arsenal.

I do hope you will support LD588. This will give Fire Chiefs another option.

Very Respectfully,

Roger S. Hooper
Chief Fire Administrator, York County