PRESS RELEASE

The Rhode Island State Association of Fire Fighters (RISAFF) and our affiliated locals will be picketing Senator Mark McKenney at his reception on May 30, 2019 at 6:00 PM, which is being held at Iggy’s, 889 Oakland Beach Avenue Warwick, Rhode Island.

Our picket of Senator McKenney is because of his disparaging remarks he made about Fire Fighter safety during the Senate hearing of Senate Bill S-747 on May 1, 2019.

The Senator’s statement during the hearing was, “I’ve been told there is a safety issue, but I take a look at that and it seems to me that when overtime is paid the safety concern seems to disappear”. That comment is not true, nor fair and it is disrespectful to the men and women who put their lives in jeopardy every time they respond to an emergency protecting the communities throughout this State.

Senator McKenney was entitled to vote against the legislation and we respect that, it’s part of the fabric our country’s democracy. However, we will not tolerate his disparaging remarks against us on the Senate floor, during his opposing remarks of the legislation.

Senator McKenney must realize that Fire Fighters always want to return to the station after a call unharmed, Fire Fighters always want to return home to their family safe at the end of a shift. The number one concern for Fire Fighters is safety, it has always been and always will be.

“Public Safety Starts with Fire Fighter Safety”

Sincerely,
Joseph A. Andriole, President
Rhode Island State Association of Fire Fighters
Along with all its Officers and Executive Board