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Senate of Pennsylvania

MIKE WAUGH
SENATOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 9, 2011
TO: All Senators
FROM: Senator Mike Waugh 
SUBJECT: Request to co-sponsor legislation
Tuition Reimbursement for Volunteer Fire Fighters and EMS personnel

I am reintroducing legislation that creates the *Volunteer Firefighter and Emergency Personnel Postsecondary Education Tuition Reimbursement Act*. This was Senate Bill 774 of the 2009-10 session.

Under this act, active, certified volunteer firefighters and emergency services personnel are eligible to have 50 percent of the cost of their tuition reimbursed by the Commonwealth. The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) shall send the reimbursement directly to the college or university.

Those students attending a community college, state-owned university or state-related university shall be reimbursed at 50 percent of the student's share of tuition for each credit course. If the student is attending an independent college or university, he or she shall be reimbursed up to 50 percent of the state-related institutions' average tuition cost.

This legislation provides a strong incentive for young people to join a volunteer fire or emergency services company at a time when these organizations are struggling to recruit and keep members.

Co-sponsors of Senate Bill 774 were Senators Alloway, Baker, Browne, Costa, Earll, Erickson, Ferlo, Folmer, Fontana, Kasunic, Kitchen, Orié, Pippy, Rafferty, Robbins, Tomlinson, Don White, Wozniak and Yaw.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Debbie Clark in my office at 787-3817, or via email at dclark@pasen.gov.