

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



SENATOR  
**PAMELA A. HELMING**  
54TH DISTRICT

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LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON  
RURAL RESOURCES

April 8, 2024

Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

The U.S Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has recently proposed new amendments to its Fire Brigade Standard, 29 CFR 1910.156. These new regulations will apply to all fire departments in New York State, including volunteer departments.

These proposed regulations include required updates to personal protective equipment (PPE), changes to first responder medical and physical requirements, and additional training requirements, among many others. In fact, these proposed changes total over six hundred pages.

These new OSHA requirements will place further stress on already struggling departments. Fire departments across New York have struggled to recruit and retain personnel in recent years, an issue which will be exacerbated by these new requirements. Updates to equipment and procedures will also impose new costs on departments, many of which already face financial challenges.

While we support efforts to ensure the safety of our fire department personnel, many departments, and the Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY) have raised concerns regarding the impact of these new regulations on departments' ability to continue to protect the public.

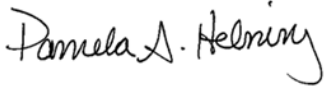
To ensure that these new regulations do not place undue burdens on New York State fire departments, we ask that you place a moratorium on the implementation of these new regulations for fire and EMS services. During this moratorium, we also ask that you establish a Blue-Ribbon Commission to review these new regulations and provide guidance to fire departments to help them comply with these mandates.

District Office: 25 North St., Canandaigua, NY 14424 • (315) 568-9816 • FAX: (585) 393-0825  
Albany Office: Room 711B Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12247 • (518) 455-2366 • FAX: (518) 426-6953  
[www.helming.nysenate.gov](http://www.helming.nysenate.gov) • [helming@nysenate.gov](mailto:helming@nysenate.gov)



Thank you for your consideration.

Warmest Regards,



Senator Pamela Helming  
54<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Senator Patrick M. Gallivan  
60<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Senator Mario R. Mattera  
2<sup>nd</sup> Senate District



Senator Bill Weber  
38<sup>th</sup> Senate District



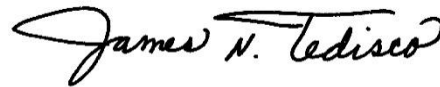
Senator George M. Borrello  
57<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Senator Thomas F. O'Mara  
58<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Senator Peter Oberacker  
51<sup>st</sup> Senate District



Senator James Tedisco  
44<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Senator Daniel G. Stec  
45<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick  
9<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Senator Rob Rolison  
39<sup>th</sup> Senate District