



**WI EMS Association**



**WI State Firefighters' Association**



**WI State Fire Chiefs' Association**

## **Senator Kathleen Vinehout Leads Effort to Protect Jobs of Wisconsin's Volunteer Fire Fighters and EMTs State Senate Passes Volunteer Job Protection Act**

**Madison, Wisconsin** – Senator Kathleen Vinehout (D-Alma) has been the leader of a legislative effort to protect the jobs of Wisconsin's volunteer Firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and First Responders.

Today, the Wisconsin Senate passed Senate Bill 308, a bill that Senator Vinehout and Rep. Scott Gunderson (R-Waterford) have authored together to protect the jobs of Wisconsin's men and women who risk their lives as volunteers responding to emergencies in their local communities.

Senate Bill 308 protects our volunteer Firefighters and EMTs by requiring that an employer permit an employee who is an emergency services volunteer to be late for or absent from work if the lateness or absence is due to the employee responding to an emergency that begins before the employee is required to report to work.

*"Today, over 90% of Wisconsin's firefighters and 80% of Wisconsin's emergency medical technicians (EMTs) are volunteers. Wisconsin relies heavily upon the goodwill and sacrifice of these local men and women volunteering so much of their personal time and money to both train and respond to emergency calls"* - **Larry Plumer, President of the Wisconsin State Firefighters' Association.**

**Brad Liggett, President of the Wisconsin Fire Chiefs' Association,** *"Volunteers such as Fire Fighters, EMTs and First Responders are an essential part of a community's continued well-being. Senate Bill 308 is will protect and promote public safety and emergency service volunteerism. On behalf of Wisconsin's Fire Chiefs, we applaud Senator Vinehout's leadership on this job protection issue."*

Consider for a moment the lives and property (personal and business) saved each year, not to mention the property tax savings volunteer emergency services provide Wisconsin's local communities, local taxpayers and the businesses located in communities served by volunteer emergency services.

*"Wisconsin EMS commends Senator Vinehout's dedication on this important issue,"* stated **Richard Meeker, President of the Wisconsin EMS Association.** *"This legislation represents a balanced approach to protecting the jobs of our volunteers, while creating a process that serves the employer."*

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