



Professional Firefighters Association of New Jersey

International Association of Fire Fighters AFL-CIO-CLC



Dominick Marino
President

Over the past few months, the Professional Firefighters Association of New Jersey (PFANJ) has been fighting against damaging legislation that threatens the security of the Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS).

After months of false promises by some ill-advised organizations, we are faced with a bill that was rushed, over-promised by its promoters, and voted upon by under-educated legislators, creating a dangerous predicament that will actually make things worse for the members of the Police and Firemen's Retirement System who just come to work every day, do a great job serving their communities, and go back home safely to their families.

This bad legislation has landed on the desk of a governor who already thinks our benefits are too rich, regularly blasting them as a burden to the taxpayer.

Ironically, in this case, the fact that the governor opposes us will most likely result in his conditional veto of this bill, which is actually a good thing for our members. But the veto is both good and bad in this case, as well.

It's good because the veto will kill this bad bill. But it's bad because once it is vetoed, it will go back to the legislature, where the pension benefits we fought so hard to secure over so many years will once again be subject to the wheeling and dealing of the state legislature.

The PFANJ, backed by pension experts from the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), vehemently opposed the current pension takeover legislation from its inception, and we continued our opposition while it was hastily rushed through the legislative process and to the Governor's desk.

Our concern has always been that the legislation would become a political football - changed to the point that it would no longer do what it was intended to do (shore up our benefits so they are there when our members retire). That's what happened with the current bill.

The PFANJ knows that there will be some kind of legislation moving forward after the Governor vetoes the bill -- and we believe that we can have a strong influence over the process if we all work together and ramp up our efforts as the strong union that we are.

We are working hand-in-hand with the IAFF to provide the facts and good language to the legislature for the next chapter of this fight. Those you've elected at the PFANJ are working hard in the state house, and our affiliation with the IAFF is providing the expertise we need to educate the lawmakers here, while IAFF lobbyists educate our federal representatives in Washington.

What we need from you is for you to keep looking for updates from us on this critical effort and to do your part when we need your help. As the saying goes, "There's strength in numbers." If we stick together in this fight, we will achieve the best outcome possible.

Stay united. We will provide more information as soon as it's available.

IAFF State Association Chartered 1929

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