



February 19, 2018

SUPPORT S.5684/A.2595 the “NY State Water Based Fire Protection Act”

Dear Senator and Assemblyman of New York State,

The Center for Campus Fire Safety would like to voice support for the legislation S.5684/A.2595 that will promote training and safety for the fire suppression industry and ensure qualified people are performing this vital work.

This Act is intended to protect, promote and preserve the public health, safety and general welfare by providing for the establishment of minimum standards for licensure of water based fire protection system installation contractors, certification of responsible managing employees and fire suppression specialists. It will establish justifiable penalties for improper layout, installing, servicing, or repairing fire protection systems and prohibit unlicensed activities.

The improper installation and repair of fire protection systems adversely affects the public health, safety and general welfare of New Yorkers and their guests. In addition, it costs the State of New York millions of dollars in tax revenue resulting from interruption of business activity and damage to property. It is widely acknowledged that fire protection systems are critical life and property safety systems that require specialized knowledge and experience for proper installation.

The Center for Campus Fire Safety is a nationwide member based organization. Several of our New York State members are active on our Board of Directors and/or in our committees. They are fire officials, fire prevention officers, and safety officials/AHJ's on college campuses or at local fire departments. They live and work throughout New York State to educate and protect students from fire on college campuses and in off-campus housing. Proper application and installation of smoke and fire alarm systems is key to the safety of hundreds of thousands of students.



Please accept this letter as encouragement for your consideration in support of the New York State Water Based Fire Protection Act. Consistent with the mission of the National Fire Sprinkler Association, *“To protect lives and property from fire through the widespread acceptance of the fire sprinkler concept”*, we believe the Act will enhance fire and life safety and the reliability of fire sprinkler systems within the State of New York.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Swain
President
The Center for Campus Fire Safety

Janet Maupin
Vice President
The Center for Campus Fire Safety