MAY 2019

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT
S1178 Carlucci

To provide tax credit to certain volunteer firefighters, volunteer ambulance workers, volunteer reserve forces officers, auxiliary police officers and volunteer emergency medical personnel

Throughout New York, volunteer EMS agencies are the first responders coming to the aid of their neighbors, families and every resident in their communities. As health and technology advances, senior citizens are (thankfully) living longer at home but often with co-morbidities and thus creating an increased need for efficient and comprehensive ambulance services. Additionally, with improved modalities and more medications available to EMS providers, the rigors of training and working on an ambulance have increased. Combined with volunteerism at an all-time low, volunteer ambulance services throughout NYS are struggling.

NYSVARA stands committed to serving its member organizations and thus providing the best emergency medical care to the people of New York. Recruitment and retention of members is more important than ever. This bill would positively impact to efforts of recruitment and retention-- and even more important is that this bill rewards volunteers with multiple consecutive years of service. Many volunteers have performed several decades of service to these volunteer agencies, and are valued as incredibly knowledgeable and experienced providers that can positively influence and teach newer generations of members.

Therefore, we seek your SUPPORT for S1178.

NYSVARA remains the voice of Volunteer and not-for-profit EMS in New York State.