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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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MEMORANDUM

To: All Members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives
From: Representative Austin Davis
Date: August 19, 2019
Subject: Strengthening Fire & EMS Services through Creation of State Fire Commission

Since 1736, Pennsylvania has been fortunate to have its citizens readily volunteer to provide fire and emergency medical services in the most desperate situations. Both residents and visitors alike benefit daily from the commitment of volunteer and professional emergency responders and, as such, we must supply them with the most effective administration and support possible. It is for this reason that I will be introducing legislation to reform the Office of the State Fire Commissioner by creating a State Fire Commission while consolidating and expanding the duties under the Office's authority.

Due to a combination of a decentralized fire service, limited and dispersed statutory authority, and insufficient staffing, the impact of the Office of the State Fire Commissioner has not been maximized, and this lack of coordination has contributed to a crisis in the delivery of fire and emergency medical services in Pennsylvania. By consolidating the office's duties and expanding it into a State Fire Commission, my legislation will allow the Office to truly lead Pennsylvania's emergency services and ensure a steady flow of resources, assistance, and support.

My proposal is a first step toward realizing Recommendation No. 5 of the Senate Resolution 6 Commission's report on the issues impacting fire and emergency services in Pennsylvania. Please join me in co-sponsoring this important measure that will truly support the brave men and women keeping the Commonwealth safe every day. Thank you for your consideration.