



PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

October 31, 2022

The Honorable Tom Wolf  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Executive Board and the entire membership of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors to urge your signature of House Bill 397 to provide much needed financial help to our Fire and EMS services at a time when they are in crisis.

House Bill 397 would increase the time limit on additional funding for merged fire and EMS companies from the Fire Company and EMS Grant program from 10 to 20 years. The cap on fire grants would be increased from \$15,000 to \$20,000 per fire company and from \$10,000 to \$15,000 per EMS company.

In addition, the bill would create new programs funded by the fireworks tax in Act 74 of 2022. This includes a loan forgiveness and tuition assistance program for active volunteer firefighters and volunteer EMS providers of up to \$1,000 per year for full-time students and \$500 per year for part-time students; scholarships for EMS personnel and reimbursement for EMS agency recruitment and retention costs; fireworks public safety education; reimbursement to bomb squads for storage and destruction of illegal fireworks; and capital grants for municipal and combination fire departments and emergency services training centers.

As you well know, our Fire Departments and EMS Services are struggling with both staffing and financial challenges. This piece of legislation will provide financial relief and has benefit for all municipalities across the Commonwealth. We support this bill and ask that you sign it into law. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

David M. Sanko  
Executive Director