



S U P P O R T

MEMORANDUM IN

S U P P O R T

OF

A.1093B – Paulin / S.5285A – Brooks

This bill amends section 242 of the Military Law to authorize paid time off for local government public employees that are combat veterans in order to obtain health care services related to their military service.

Currently, State employees with military combat experience may obtain up to five days of paid leave for obtaining health care services related to their combat experience. However, local government employees do not have access to this same benefit. This legislation would allow local governments the option to provide this same benefit to their employees.

Military veterans face an immense physical and emotional toll during combat. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates twenty percent of those that served in *Operation Enduring Freedom* and *Operation Iraqi Freedom* return from deployment with post-traumatic stress syndrome, in addition to other mental and physical health issues. This legislation would help to ensure that time off is not a barrier for combat veterans to receive the care and treatment that they need upon returning from a conflict. This legislation would not only provide the opportunity to receive treatment that such veterans rightly deserve, but would also allow them to be more successful in positions of public employment.

On behalf of more than 300,000 active and retired, public and private employees across New York State, CSEA strongly urges the passage of this legislation.

Respectively submitted,

Fran Turner
Director