

www.cpf.org

BILL TO AID LAID OFF RICHMOND FFS CLEARS FIRST COMMITTEE

A ten year veteran of the fire service, who lost her job in Richmond's most recent round of budget cuts came to Sacramento to testify on behalf of legislation that could help her stay on the front lines.

Evette Feigel was one of 18 Richmond firefighters axed in a devastating round of layoffs earlier this year. She joined **CPF President Dan Terry** and others at a news conference and legislative hearing aimed at drawing attention to CPF-sponsored legislation that creates a statewide hiring list for firefighters laid off because of budget cuts. The measure – **AB 1929** – won unanimous support of the Assembly Local Government Committee.



"Words can't describe the joy I felt when I became a firefighter ... how it felt to be a role model for my daughter," Feigel told the media and the committee. "My daughter doesn't understand about being laid off. She does understand that I miss being a firefighter very, very much."

CPF's legislation – **AB 1929** by Assemblyman Steve Samuelian (R-Fresno) – builds on a successful program implemented in the 1990s to help federal civilian firefighters displaced by base closings. Under AB 1929, firefighters laid off because of local budget cuts could be added to the master list, managed by the **California Fire Fighters Joint Apprenticeship Committee (CFFJAC)**. If authorized by their local governing agency, fire chiefs looking to fill vacancies could hire directly from the list, eliminating the need for a costly, time-consuming search process.



"We get calls every week from departments looking to get in touch with these committed, experienced and motivated men and women," said California Professional Firefighters President Dan Terry, who is chair of the CFFJAC. "They want to find them and they want to hire them right now. AB 1929 will help them do that."

Assemblyman Samuelian talked about the benefit the legislation offers to departments as well as to firefighters, highlighting the cost savings and the need to insure that these well-trained firefighters aren't forced to seek other professions to make ends meet.

*"Every time a firefighter is laid off because of budget cuts, a valuable resource is at risk of going to waste," said **Assemblyman Steve Samuelian (R-Fresno)**. "AB*

1929 makes it possible for local governments to reclaim that resource for their citizens, and save themselves the time and expense of a costly search process."

Firefighter Feigel and President Terry were joined at the news conference by **Assemblyman Samuelian, Jim Russey, President of Richmond International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 188** and fellow **Richmond firefighter Patrick Jackson**. CPF has also gained strong support for AB 1929 from management organizations – backers include the California Fire Chiefs Association, the Fire Districts Association of California, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the League of California Cities. The League's Amy Brown made presentations on behalf of the bill at both the news conference and the committee hearing.



Having won unanimous support from the Assembly Local Government Committee, the measure next will be heard by the Assembly Appropriations Committee.