



Subway Surface Supervisors Association

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June 26, 2015

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Support for Senate Bill 5937 and Assembly Bill 8174A

Dear Governor Cuomo,

As president of the New York City Subway Surface Supervisors Association, with over 3,500 members, I am writing to urge you to sign Senate Bill 5937 and Assembly Bill 8174A into law.

These important pieces of legislation would permit veterans to buy pension credit for up to three of the years they spent defending the United States. Additionally, this legislation would permit state employees who were combat veterans of wars that are not currently covered (including Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Afghanistan), wartime veterans of the only wartime time period not yet fully covered (Gulf War Era: August 2, 1990 through Present), and the excluded post-1975 Cold War veterans to buy back up to three years of their active and honorable service.

These bills would also align New York State with the common sense federal buy back program: All military veterans working for the federal government are eligible to 'buy back' their honorable military years - regardless of specific date, location, conflicts, theater of war, phases of the moon, or any other arbitrary category.

Our nation can never repay the debts we owe to the men and women who sacrificed their lives defending our freedom around the world. The time is now to correct the Military Buy Back legislation that was originally passed in 2000 and fully incorporate those state employees who honorably served their country and are seeking to buy back three years of pension credit. Many of our union members are veterans who would benefit from this legislation and would enable them to support their families long after they retire.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of this memorandum of support and look forward to working with your administration on legislation that continues to support both our veterans and our brothers and sisters in the SSSA.

Sincerely,

Michael Carrube
President