

JUL 1 1995

Dear _____

This is in response to your inquiry on behalf of _____ of _____ Mr. _____ is concerned about whether his employer may prevent him from leaving work to act as a volunteer firefighter with the _____ Volunteer Fire Department.

It appears that your constituent is employed by a local employer who does not want to allow Mr. _____ to respond to fire calls during his working hours, even if he "punches out" (i.e., he is not paid for such time). The Department of Labor does not administer any statutes that would require your constituent's employer to release him during working hours to perform volunteer firefighting duties with the _____ Fire Department. This is a matter to be resolved by the parties directly, or through the collective bargaining process if a union is involved.

There may be some provision in state law that governs volunteer firefighting, and you may wish to suggest that your constituent contact the State of _____ in this regard, if he has not already done so.

We trust that the above is responsive to your inquiry.

Sincerely,

Daniel F. Sweeney
Deputy Assistant Administrator

cc: Washington, D.C., Office