

## **GOVERNOR SIGNS LEGISLATION TO ALLOW VOLUNTEERS TO BUY IN TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT HEALTH PLANS**

On July 22, New York Governor David Paterson signed into law A7699a, sponsored by Senator James Seward and Assemblywoman RoAnn Destito which provides the opportunity for volunteer fire and EMS responders to purchase low cost health insurance at the leveraged purchase rates paid by local governments.

The new law is effective at the end of January, 2009. FASNY will be coordinating with the Governor's office, the Legislature and local government advocates to develop protocols as to how volunteer responders can arrange for this benefit through their Towns, Villages and Fire Districts. There may be interaction with the New York State Health Insurance Plan to accomplish this.

FASNY will continue to report on this as arrangements are made and a seminar is planned for FASNY's October Legislative Meeting. FASNY leadership wishes to thank the many members who wrote and made calls in support of the legislation. This was key in encouraging the Governor to sign this landmark legislation.

Thanks to everyone who contacted the governor in support of this bill!