

Michael Osiecki
South Fire District
Middletown, Connecticut

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 6194

Good afternoon Senator Prague, Representative Ryan and members of the Labor and Public Employee Committee.

My name is Michael Osiecki; I have been a career firefighter for the past 20 years at South Fire District located in the South end of the City of Middletown.

Please do not be **ALARMED** by what I am wearing here today. I have personal protective clothing and self contained breathing apparatus (which adds an additional 60 pounds to a firefighter) on to demonstrate to you that even with all this safety equipment on, **FIREFIGHTERS CAN STILL CONTRACT CANCER ON THE JOB.**

These garments that protect us can also contain hidden chemicals that can makes us ill and contract certain types of cancers. We have learned this through many studies conducted over the past years and we will gladly provide, to this committee, our findings.

Studies have shown that long term affects of our job put us at a high risk to contract certain cancers. The nature of our job is to protect others. As firefighters we have no problem entering into burning buildings or responding to hazmat calls to save the public we have sworn to protect. We are asking you today for protection from these potentially deadly diseases by providing coverage within the workers compensation statutes, while we are on watch as first responders in this great State of Connecticut.

We help others in their time of need, we ask for your help and support in return by passing this bill and making sure it becomes law.

I thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak on this matter. And I would be glad to answer any questions that you may have.