

Connecticut General Assembly
Hartford, Connecticut
Public Hearing, February 25th, 2016
Before The Labor Committee & Public Employees
In Support of HB5262 An Act Concerning Worker's Compensation for Current & Former
Uniformed Member of Paid or Volunteer Fire Departments
Joyce Acebo~Raguskus, Chair Diesel Cleanup, Environmental Concerns Coalition,
CLEAN WATER ACTION, Advocate, Coalition For A Safe & Healthy CT/CSHC,
Former Emergency Medical Technician, Stratford, CT
174 Eastern Parkway, Milford, Connecticut 06460

Thank you for this opportunity to give written testimony in support of HB5262 An Act Concerning Worker's Compensation for Current & Former Uniformed Member of Paid or Volunteer Fire Departments. My name is Joyce Acebo~Raguskus of 174 Eastern Parkway and as Chair of Diesel Cleanup with E.C.C. and Advocate with Coalition For A Safe & Healthy CT I support preventative and protective measures for our families, children and workers here in CT.

As human consumer's of air we learn that the quality and or lack of can lead to serious illnesses and death. Coalition For A Safe & Healthy CT supports keeping our airways as clean as possible and to provide protection and 'compensation' where needed. This coalition has presented testimony, with said references which I completely concur to be included as an addendum to my own testimony.

Years of evidence supports that our courageous Firefighter's, both men and women exposed to dangerous quality of air with burning materials, chemicals, plastics, toxic flame retardants (yet to be banned, serving no protection, and gases have serious health effects. As cited by my CSHC colleagues, University of Cincinnati, Nordic countries, and National Institute of Occupational Safety, NIOSH, evidence of study with incidence of 30,000 career fighters had higher rates of multiple cancers ranging from, mesothelioma, esophageal, mouth, pharyngeal, and cancer of kidney, breast, intestine, stomach and lung.

I would say it is indeed the first responders who clearly are in 'the hot seat'! Not only are they risking their live's as first responders, but evidence claims their quality of life to be wrought with the dangers of carcinomas and other illnesses. We must reach out for their protection and compensation as they so willingly do for ours.

I support along with my colleagues with Coalition for A Safe & Healthy CT, HB5262 for compensation well earned, in the line of their chosen duty and human efforts to volunteer to protect the lives of our families in CT.

Thank you.
Joyce Acebo~Raguskus
174 Eastern Parkway
Milford, CT 06460

