



CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

February 25, 2016

Senator Edwin Gomes, Co-Chair Labor & Public Employees Committee
Representative Peter Tercyak, Co-Chair Labor & Public Employees Committee
Senator Tony Hwang, Ranking Member Labor & Public Employees Committee
Representative David Rutigliano, Ranking Member Labor & Public Employees Committee

Members of the Labor & Public Employees Committee,

**Raised House Bill #5262 – AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE FOR
CURRENT AND FORMER UNIFORMED MEMBERS OF PAID OR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

My name is Ted Schroll, Legislative Representative for the Connecticut State Firefighters Association. Our Association represents more than 26,000 paid and volunteer firefighters in Connecticut. I would like to comment on the subject bill on the agenda for today's public hearing.

The Connecticut State Firefighters Association would like to ask for your support for this bill. Anywhere, anytime when citizens have any type of an emergency and don't know who to call, they call the fire department. If the firefighters don't know what to do, they will figure it out somehow. They always know what to do. And firefighters have been doing that since Ben Franklin organized the first volunteer fire department.

Now the firefighters need your help. They keep responding to your emergencies, but times have changed. Consumer goods used to be manufactured from simple materials. Now these same items contain exotic materials which, when they burn, give off toxic chemicals in the smoke. These chemicals identified are proven to contain products that are carcinogenic to humans; including Benzene, Arsenic, Butadiene, Formaldehyde, chromium compounds, dioxins, asbestos, among others.

We call on firefighters to mitigate emergencies with these known carcinogens and studies have shown that firefighters are developing certain cancers at a higher rate and at a younger age than the general public. Members of this Association have been working closely with your fellow legislators on a workers' compensation benefit to address these concerns.

We realize at this time that this bill is a work in progress and are willing to work further to bring this issue to fruition. We would ask that you move this legislation forward to provide proper workers' compensation coverage that reflects on the issues that Connecticut's firefighters face in their workplace.

Respectfully,

Ted Schroll Jr.

Ted Schroll Jr., Legislative Representative
Connecticut State Firefighters Association

LabCancer2016