



**Public Hearing Testimony of
Scott Jackson, Commissioner
Department of Labor
Labor and Public Employees Committee
March 3, 2016**

Good Afternoon Senator Gomes, Representative Tercyak, Senator Hwang, Representative Rutigliano and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony regarding **House Bill No. 5372, AAC Firefighters and Disability Insurance Policies**. My name is Scott Jackson and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Labor.

The Department of Labor (DOL) opposes this bill to the extent that it tasks DOL with conducting a costly study and producing a report with administrative or legislative recommendations regarding the feasibility of establishing a disability insurance program for firefighters. The Department does not have the resources or any expertise in whether the state could develop a disability program for firefighters who contract cancer as a result of their work. The Department would need to contract with a consultant with specific expertise in this area to conduct such a study, as well as produce a report and recommendations, and would necessarily need additional funds to do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. I am available to answer any questions you may have.