

**Testimony in support of SB-00141**  
**An act concerning workers' compensation coverage for current and former members of paid municipal or volunteer fire departments.**

I respectfully urge you to enact the presumptive cancer protections for all career (municipal, state, federal) and volunteer firefighters serving Connecticut citizens, as described in SB-00141.

Historically, a covenant has existed between the public and the fire service. Firefighters place their lives and quality of life on the line to save lives and property. In exchange for this service, the public has agreed that if firefighters are hurt in the course of actions, we will be covered in the event of injury.

Scientific research demonstrates that cancer is very clearly the result of job injuries. Current data concludes that firefighters are between 300% and 800% more likely to be stricken with a wide range of cancers than the general public.

Firefighting is a calling to serve others. We don't get rich doing it, and we know we won't leave the profession without negative health impacts. Firefighters are regularly called to incidents that are the worst days in the lives of the citizens they serve, including fires, serious accidents, and life and death medical calls. In addition, firefighters are exposed to a variety of toxic chemicals via firefighting and hazardous materials responses. Despite a commitment to safety and innovations in training, equipment and gear, firefighters know the work will take a toll.

It makes sense to enact presumptive legislation to cover the injuries firefighters sustain while serving others.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this pressing matter.

Respectfully,

Patrick Eye  
Firefighter, UCONN Fire Department