



GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

P.O. Box 105377
Atlanta, GA 30348

September 21, 2016

The Honorable Richard Hanna
U.S. House of Representatives
319 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hanna:

On behalf of the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs, I am committing our full support of H. R. 4625, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act. We would like to thank you for your support of America's firefighters and their families. This vital legislation will create a much needed registry of information on the growing problem of cancer in the fire service and hopefully lead to new standards and practices to protect our firefighters.

As Chiefs, the most important part of our job is looking out for our personnel. Many states have laws providing valuable workers compensation insurance coverage for those firefighters that contract cancer as an occupational exposure. Unfortunately, some states such as Georgia do not. The reason often given is that the research is insufficient and there isn't enough evidence to support that the cancer is the result of occupational exposure. This registry will help support that evidence and provide the foundation for research to prove it. Way too often those firefighters diagnosed with cancer are unable to work due to the side effects of either the cancer or the treatment and end up losing their jobs because of it. This puts a bigger strain on the family to not only pay the day to day bills, but also the very expensive medical bills as well.

This bill would reiterate and validate previous studies as well as lay important foundations for future studies that would provide vital data to our nation's fire service leaders on the magnitude of the cancer issue in the fire service, and hopefully ways to address it. It is our hope that future leaders and researchers work hand in hand to reduce occurrences of cancer in our nation's firefighters.

The GAFC endorses this vital legislation and thanks you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Dwayne Jamison AAS, GA-CEM, GFCC
President