



Supporting Those Who Serve

March 11, 2016

The Honorable Richard Hanna
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Pascrell
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Representatives Hanna and Pascrell:

On behalf of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), the leading national organization representing the interests of the nation's volunteer fire, EMS and rescue services, I am writing to express support for the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act (H.R. 4625).

The timing of this bill is of great import. Many older firefighters did not have access to breathing apparatus or regular cleaning and inspection of their PPE early in their careers. Although firefighters today have better protections in place they are also increasingly coming into contact with more toxic substances in the course of regular fire suppression. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the generation of career and volunteer firefighters retiring today are developing cancer at an unprecedented rate. Additionally, the number of active firefighters developing cancer at a young age is very troubling. We need to get to the bottom of why and how firefighters are contracting cancer so that we can do a better job of preventing, detecting and treating it.

Thank you both for your leadership on this critical issue and for your strong support for the volunteer fire service in general. The NVFC looks forward to working closely with both of you to enact H.R. 4625.

Sincerely,

Kevin D. Quinn
Chairman

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