



H.R. 4625: FIREFIGHTER CANCER REGISTRY ACT

Supported by the National Volunteer Fire Council, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs, the Congressional Fire Services Institute, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, the International Fire Services Training Association, the International Association of Arson Investigators, the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association

Rep. Richard Hanna

Staff: Nick Stewart (5-3665)
nick.stewart@mail.house.gov

Rep. Bill Pascrell

Staff: Dylan Sodaro (5-5751)
dylan.sodaro@mail.house.gov

Limited access to data has slowed the progress of important research examining cancer trends among firefighters.

Studies indicate **a strong link between firefighting and an increased risk for several major cancers** such as testicular cancer, stomach cancer, multiple myeloma and brain cancer. Research has also indicated a strong connection between firefighting and malignant mesothelioma and lung cancer. The heightened risk of cancer among firefighters has been attributed to their **frequent exposure to a range of harmful toxins**.

Studies examining cancer risks among firefighters have been **limited by the availability of important data and relatively small sample sizes** that have an underrepresentation of women, minorities, and volunteer firefighters. As a result, **public health researchers have been unable to fully examine and understand the broader epidemiological cancer trends among firefighters**.

*“This legislation will create an **important resource** for researchers looking to **understand and prevent the growing occurrence of cancer** among our nation’s firefighters.”*

- International Association of Fire Chiefs

A specialized national cancer registry would expand access to vital epidemiological data and improve research outcomes.

This bill would establish a specialized national cancer registry to be managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. **The registry would provide guidance to states and clinicians, improve collection capabilities, and centralize data to enhance the monitoring of cancer incidence.**

- ✓ The registry would standardize, store, and consolidate epidemiological information submitted by healthcare professionals related to cancer incidence among firefighters.
- ✓ De-identified data would be available to public health researchers to provide them with robust and comprehensive datasets to expand groundbreaking research.
- ✓ As this registry grows, it will improve our understanding of cancer incidence and could potentially lead to the development of more sophisticated safety protocols and safeguards.
- ✓ To ensure the effectiveness of the registry and coordinate its efforts, its administrators would be required to consult regularly with epidemiologists, public health experts, clinicians, and firefighters.