



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

HAROLD A. SCHAITBERGER
General President

THOMAS H. MILLER
General Secretary-Treasurer

March 15, 2016

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

Dear Congressman Hanna,

On behalf of the nation's 300,000 professional fire fighters and emergency medical responders, I am writing in support of your bill, H.R. 4625, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act. This important legislation will establish a specialized cancer registry to provide scientists with more and better information regarding cancer in fire fighters and to spur novel research on this growing problem.

As you well know, multiple studies have demonstrated statistically higher rates of multiple types of cancers in fire fighters as compared to the general population, including multiple myeloma, brain cancer, leukemia, prostate cancer, kidney and lung cancers and many others. A 2013 study by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health found that fire fighters have a 14% increased risk of dying from cancer as compared to the general population.

Despite the knowledge gained from previous studies, many have been limited by relatively small sample sizes and an underrepresentation of certain demographic groups including women and minorities. Studies have also been limited by the lack of key data such as the number of years on the job and the number and type of exposures. The Firefighter Cancer Registry Act remedies these shortcomings by collecting detailed data about fire fighters with cancer on a national scale.

The specialized information collected through the proposed registry will help strengthen our understanding of the link between fire fighting and cancer, and hopefully spur new research which could potentially lead to better prevention and safety protocols among fire fighters.

Again, thank you for your support of our nation's fire fighters and for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Harold A. Schaitberger
General President