

## Cosponsor H.R. 2499 - Bipartisan Federal Firefighter Fairness Act

**\*\*To Cosponsor Fill Out [THIS FORM](#)\*\***

**Supported by:** *International Association of Federal Firefighters (IAFF), American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)*

**Cosponsors 116<sup>th</sup> (69):** Reps. Bacon, Brown, Brownley, Brindisi, Bustos, Cardenas, Cisneros, Craig, Cole, Courtney, Dean, Fitzpatrick, Foster, Haaland, Harder, Higgins, Horn, Horsford, Houlahan, Huffman, Jackson-Lee, Jayapal, Johnson(OH), Kilmer, Kim (NJ), King (NY), Larsen, Lowenthal, Lujan, Luria, Malinowski, Sean Patrick Maloney, McBath, Mckinley, Mitchell, Mucarsel-Powell, Neguse, Norton, Omar, Pappas, Perlmutter, Peters, Pocan, Pingree, Raskin, Rouda, Ruppertsberger, Roybal-Allard, Ryan, Sarbanes, Schrier, Sherman, Sherrill, Smith, Spanberger, Sires, Slotkin, Stefanik, Stanton, Swalwell, Takano, Trahan, Torres-Small, Turner, Wexton, Wild

Dear Colleague:

Please join us as a cosponsor of H.R. 2499, the *Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2021*. This bill would create the presumption that federal firefighters who become disabled by serious diseases, such as heart disease, lung disease, certain cancers, and other infectious diseases, contracted the illness on the job.

Federal firefighters are currently denied this right that a large majority of municipal firefighters already enjoy. To qualify for disability retirement, federal firefighters who suffer from an occupational illness must specify the precise exposure that caused their illness. This burden of proof is extraordinarily difficult for firefighters to meet given the wide variety of conditions and environments in which they work.

Forty states already recognize the link between certain serious diseases and the occupational hazards of firefighting and have enacted presumptive disability laws, including: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

These laws presume that heart disease, lung disease, certain cancers, and other infectious diseases are job-related for purposes of worker's compensation and disability retirement unless proven otherwise.

The *Federal Firefighter Fairness Act of 2021* would help provide our nation's federal firefighters the fair and equitable compensation and retirement benefits they earned. Congress has provided presumptive disability benefits to other groups of individuals, such as military veterans, World Trade Center responders and public safety officers who die in the line of duty.

To sign on as a cosponsor please fill this [FORM](#) or contact Johanna Montiel at [Johanna.Montiel@mail.house.gov](mailto:Johanna.Montiel@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Carbal's office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

SALUD CARBAJAL

Member of Congress

DON BACON

Member of Congress

MARK TAKANO

Member of Congress

BRIAN FITZPATRICK

Member of Congress