

Cosponsor S. 1942 – Federal Firefighters Fairness Act

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

Dear Colleague:

We write to invite you to cosponsor S. 1942, the *Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2019*. This bill would create a presumption that cardiovascular diseases, certain cancers and certain infectious diseases contracted by federal fire fighters are job-related for purposes of workers' compensation and disability retirement.

Fire fighters are routinely exposed to smoke, heat and various toxic substances and as a result, are more likely than other workers to contract a cardiovascular disease, lung disease or cancer. Additionally, because of the medical services they provide, fire fighters are regularly exposed to infectious diseases. The *Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2019* would amend Title 5 of U.S. Code, for the purposes of workers compensation claims, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a federal fire fighter caused by certain diseases is the result of the performance of the employee's duty. The diseases include heart and lung diseases, and various cancers such as brain cancer, blood cancer, leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, testicular cancer, colon cancer, liver cancer, skin cancer, lung cancer, breast cancer, and infectious diseases such as TB, Hepatitis A/B/C, and HIV.

Additionally, this bill requires the Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to examine the implementation of the bill and submit a report to Congress that includes an analysis of claims made under this act, an analysis of available research relating to health risks, and recommendations for additional illnesses to be covered.

The *Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2019* is supported by the International Association of Federal Fire Fighters (IAFF) and the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE).

If you would like to join as a cosponsor or if you have any questions, please have your staff contact Laura Pastre on Senator Carper's staff at Laura_Pastre@carper.senate.gov or Bryan Allen on Senator Collins' staff at Bryan_Allen@collins.senate.gov.

Sincerely,

THOMAS R. CARPER
United States Senator

SUSAN M. COLLINS
United States Senator