



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS

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Honorable (Insert Your Representative Here)
Office building insert here
(Email – Energy and Commerce Staffer/Fire Service Staff)

April 15, 2016

In re: H.R. 4625, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2016.

Dear Representative XXXX,

The International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) – Global Leaders in Fire Investigation has approximately 8000 members from the fire investigation profession. Most of our members are local and state fire investigators who determine the origin and cause of fires in the communities they serve.

Studies have consistently demonstrated a strong link between firefighting and an increased risk for several major cancers. Our fire investigators may serve as firefighters or serve just in the capacity of being the community's fire investigator. The fire investigator has the same exposures to cancers. Unfortunately, studies examining cancer risks among firefighters have been limited by the availability of important data and relatively small sample sizes with an underrepresentation of women, minorities, and volunteer firefighters. This lack of data limits the ability of public health researchers to fully examine and understand the broader epidemiological cancer trends among firefighters.

To address this shortfall, U.S. House of Representatives Richard Hanna and Bill Pascrell introduced H.R. 4625, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2016. As members of the fire service community we strongly support the efforts of creating a Firefighter Cancer Registry at the national level to obtain broader data on the cancer risks among the fire service community.

This specialized registry would provide researchers and epidemiologists with the tools and resources they need to improve research collection activities related to the monitoring of cancer incidence among firefighters. As it grows, it will improve our understanding of cancer incidence, and could potentially lead to the development of more sophisticated protocols and safeguards for firefighters.

I hope you will consider the importance of this legislation and ask for your support to join Representatives Hanna and Pascrell as cosponsor.

I thank you in advance for your considered support of the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2016.

Sincerely,