



**CALVERT COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

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February 7, 2024

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair

RE: SB578 Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program - Funding

Honorable Senators,

My name is Barbara Warner, Grant Writer for the Department of Public Safety, Calvert County, Maryland. I am writing in support of Senate Bill 578. This bill will allow for additional funds to assist our firefighters in early detection multi-cancer screening. In my position as Grant Writer for Public Safety, I seek grants and submit grant applications to provide funding for our local volunteer fire/rescue/EMS departments. This bill will add much needed grant funding to a top-priority service for our local heroes.

According to data from the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) cancer caused 66% of the career firefighter line-of-duty deaths from 2002 - 2019. Firefighters have a 9% higher risk of being diagnosed with cancer and a 14% higher risk of dying from cancer than the general U.S. population from research by the CDC/National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH). There have been numerous processes that have been put into place to reduce some of the cross-contamination of carcinogens that cause cancer; however early detection of cancer will be our biggest resource in combating this disease. I strongly encourage all committee members to vote in favor of this bill to increase funding for the Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program. Unison support of those who risk their lives daily for our safety is imperative.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara J. Warner".

Barbara J. Warner
Grant Writer
Department of Public Safety
Barbara.Warner@calvertcountymd.gov