

SB578 Support - Barbara Warner.pdf

Uploaded by: Barbara Warner

Position: FAV



**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

SB0578-BT_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Dominic Butchko

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 578

*Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer
Screening Technologies Program - Funding*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: February 7, 2024

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 578. This bill allocates additional resources to the Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program.

For the second legislative session in a row, MACo has adopted as a legislative initiative to support forward-thinking Firefighter and EMS incentives. While Maryland beats the national average in 9-1-1 call response times, a growing number of communities are starting to slip below that average and with detrimental consequences. **This effectively means that a growing number of the mutual state and county constituents are being put in danger due to a lack of emergency response capacity.**

The 2023 report from the Commission to Advance and Strengthen Firefighting and Emergency Medical Services within Maryland (the Commission) identified healthcare, along with education and childcare, as the top incentives to encourage more individuals to join and remain with firefighting as a career. By raising the threshold of minimum funding for the Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program, the General Assembly would be taking real action to support our first responders.

It also must be noted that while SB 578 is an important step, it does not go far enough. MACo is advancing legislation aimed at implementing and furthering the discussion around several recommendations within the Commission's report. SB 691/HB 899 establish and expand educational incentives for fire and EMS personnel, while also directing the Department of Budget and Management to report on the feasibility of future healthcare and childcare programs. Make no mistake, if Maryland does not take further action soon, our constituents will bear the brunt of those decisions.

Counties believe firefighter recruitment and retention should be a priority for all levels of government and as such, urge the Committee to give SB 578 a **FAVORABLE** report.

SB578 (2024) PFFMD Testimony - J. Buddle.pdf

Uploaded by: Jeffrey Buddle

Position: FAV



February 7, 2024

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Position: FAVORABLE

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

The Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland represents more than 10,000 active and retired professional fire fighters and emergency medical services personnel who proudly serve the citizens of the State of Maryland.

Health and safety are of the utmost importance to this organization and the fire fighters we represent. Unfortunately, more fire fighters are dying of cancer each year. The disease - now the number one killer of fire fighters - poses the greatest risk to a healthy fire service. Almost 75% of those honored each year at the IAFF Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial are members who have died from occupational cancer.

In July of 2022 the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) announced the classification of occupational exposure as a firefighter as a Group 1 carcinogen, the agency's highest designation for agents that carry sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in humans.

IARC's new evaluation of firefighting considers 52 cohort and case-control studies, 12 case reports, and seven meta-analyses. According to the agency, some of the most informative research included more than 30 non-overlapping cohort studies from around the world that followed firefighters for cancer over time, including, right here in North America.

Early detection of cancers is a critical element in favorable long-term outcomes. Simply stated, if cancers are identified early there is a much higher probability of successful treatment as opposed to diagnosing cancer when it has progressed to more advanced stages. This bill would authorize the Governor to provide funding in the annual budget submitted to the General Assembly to assist with the cost of cancer screenings for members of the fire and rescue service throughout the State of Maryland.

On behalf of the members of Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland, we strongly urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 578.

Submitted respectfully,



Jeffrey Buddle, President
Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland

The membership of the Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland includes 27 IAFF local affiliates from the following jurisdictions:

Federal: Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Fort George G. Meade, National Capital Federal Fire Fighters, National Institutes of Health

State: Baltimore / Washington International Airport

Local: Annapolis City, Allegany County, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City (2 affiliates), Baltimore County, Carroll County, Cecil County, Charles County, Cumberland City, Frederick County, Garrett County, Hagerstown, Howard County, Montgomery County, Ocean City, Prince Georges County, Queen Annes County, Salisbury, St. Mary County, Talbot County, Worcester County