

DANA JONES
Legislative District 30A
Anne Arundel County

Appropriations Committee

Subcommittees

Vice Chair, Health and Social Services

Oversight Committee on Pensions

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review

Vice Chair, Anne Arundel
County Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Delegate Dana Jones
Before the Health and Government Operations Committee

In Support of HB 1472
Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program
- Funding
March 20th 2024, 1:00 pm

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee, for the record I am Delegate Dana Jones.

I come before you today to introduce HB 1472, Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program - Funding. Originally enacted in 2019, the program provides grants to local fire departments and volunteer fire departments to procure innovative cancer screening tests that are otherwise not conducted during routine physical examinations or not covered by insurance. At present, this program is funded at \$100,000 annually. HB 1472 provides the Governor discretion to provide up to \$500,000 in funding annually for the program.

Tragically, more firefighters are dying from cancer with every passing year. Cancer is the #1 killer of firefighters, and as outlined in the testimony by the Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland, it accounts as the cause of death for an average of 70% of fallen firefighters honored annually at the IAFF Memorial. To combat cancer, early detection is key, with a much higher survival rate caught earlier compared to at advanced stages. HB 1472 will go a long way to ensuring longer, healthier, and happier lives for our firefighter heroes.

Finally, the Senate cross-file of the legislation passed the Senate with unanimous support in Committee and the Senate Floor. With that, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 1472.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right from the end of the name.

Delegate Dana Jones