



Dave McDowell, Director

## CALVERT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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February 21, 2024

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair

RE: Cross-filled SB0849 Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program - Funding

Honorable Senator Guzzone,

My name is Dave McDowell, Director of the Calvert County Department of Public Safety. I am writing in support of Cross-filled Senate Bill 0849. This bill will allow for additional funds to assist our firefighters in early detection multi-cancer screening. The additional funding will provide necessary testing to protect 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 black ink, appearing to read "D McDowell".

Dave McDowell  
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Calvert County, Maryland  
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