



Career Fire Fighters Association of Frederick County, MD Inc.
International Association of Fire Fighters Local 3666
Affiliated with:
Maryland State Professional Fire Fighters Association and The Central Maryland Labor Council / AFL-CIO



SUPPORT

SB 849: Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program - Funding

Sponsored by: Chair Guzzone

Budget and Taxation Committee

Hearing 2/26 at 1:00 p.m.

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee,

I write as the President of the Career Firefighters Association of Frederick County, Maryland (IAFF Local 3666) - Frederick County's public employee organization that represents the over 600 men and women employed with the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue. I am writing to express my support for SB849.

This legislation, which increases funding for the Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program from \$500,000 to \$3,000,000 and authorizes the Maryland Secretary of Health to allocate up to 20% of program funds to support data collection and analysis by academic medical centers, is a critical next step for healthcare for Maryland's firefighters.

Firefighters face a significantly higher risk of cancer than the general public due to prolonged exposure to carcinogens in the line of duty. Cancer is now the leading cause of death among firefighters and while Maryland has taken important steps to address this crisis, additional funding is necessary. Passage of this legislation will:

- Expand access to innovative cancer screening technologies for firefighters across Maryland, including those in Frederick County;
- Improve early detection rates, ultimately leading to better treatment outcomes and saving lives; and,
- Allow for the collection and analysis of critical data through academic medical centers, ensuring that screening methods are continuously assessed and improved for maximum effectiveness.

We urge this committee to issue a favorable report on this bill and help ensure that Maryland remains a leader in protecting its fire service personnel from the devastating impact of occupational cancer.

Sincerely,

Stephen Jones, President, IAFF Local 3666

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