

**SB0849 CC Support Letter.pdf**

Uploaded by: Dave McDowell

Position: FAV



Dave McDowell, Director

## CALVERT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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*Board of Commissioners*  
Mark C. Cox Sr.  
Catherine M. Grasso  
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Mike Hart  
Todd Ireland

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  
Director of the Department of Public Safety  
Calvert County, Maryland  
[Dave.McDowell@calvertcountymd.gov](mailto:Dave.McDowell@calvertcountymd.gov)

# **SB 849 - Professional and Volunteer Firefighter In**

Uploaded by: Donna Edwards

Position: FAV



# MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

7 School Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2096

Balto. (410) 269-1940 • Fax (410) 280-2956

*President*

**Donna S. Edwards**

*Secretary-Treasurer*

**Gerald W. Jackson**

**SB 849 - Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies  
Program - Funding  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
February 26, 2025**

**SUPPORT**

**Donna S. Edwards  
President**

**Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 849. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

Firefighters risk their lives daily, battling fires and enduring exposure to toxic chemicals and fumes, and as a result, they experience a significantly higher rate of cancer. In 2023, the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) reported that 72% of member line-of-duty deaths were due to occupational cancer<sup>1</sup>, emphasizing the need for early detection and prevention.

SB 849 increases the annual amount the Governor may include in the budget for the Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program from \$500,000 to \$3,000,000, providing for continuous improvement of these technologies which could lead to earlier diagnoses and better outcomes for those impacted. Additionally, this bill allows the Secretary to use funds from the Program to support medical centers in their efforts to improve cancer screening, enhancing transparency, accountability, adaptability, and the creation of well-informed policy.

Given the nature of their profession and the inherent risk associated with it, we have the opportunity to support these brave individuals by ensuring they are provided with the essential resources needed to detect cancer. By providing funding for detection, we can help better prevent

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<sup>1</sup> "Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month." International Association of Fire Fighters. 2023.

this from impacting the lives that give back to our communities. For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on SB 849.

# **Senate Bill 849 (2025) PFFMD Testimony - J. Buddle**

Uploaded by: Jeffrey Buddle

Position: FAV



**February 26, 2025**

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

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Re: SB849 - 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.

SB849 would increase the annual budget authorization for the Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program from \$500,000 to \$3,000,000. Most significantly, it is important to emphasize the life-saving potential of this initiative and the importance of ensuring its continuous improvement through robust data analysis.

Firefighters face unique occupational hazards that place them at an increased risk of developing various forms of cancer. Due to frequent exposure to harmful chemicals and carcinogens, our brave men and women in the fire service deserve the highest level of care and early detection strategies. This program has already shown promising results by providing innovative cancer screening technologies that could lead to earlier diagnoses and better outcomes for those who serve our communities.

## **Rationale for Increasing Funding**

### **1. Enhancing Early Detection:**

The proposed funding increase—from \$500,000 to \$3,000,000—will significantly expand the scope of screening technologies and allow for a more comprehensive application of these advanced diagnostic tools. Early detection is critical to improving survival rates, and the additional resources will enable us to screen more firefighters, providing timely intervention that can save lives.

### **2. Expanding Research and Technology Integration:**

The current budget level limits the program's ability to integrate the latest cancer screening innovations. With increased funding, we can support further research and development in this field, ensuring that the program remains at the forefront of medical innovation.

### **3. Addressing a Critical Need:**

Firefighters are a vital part of our community infrastructure, and their well-being directly impacts public safety. An increase to \$3,000,000 reflects a proactive approach to addressing their unique healthcare challenges and demonstrates a commitment to supporting those who protect us day in and day out.

## **Support for Data-Driven Program Improvement**

In addition to increasing the funding, the legislation authorizes the Secretary of Health to use up to 20% of Program funds to support academic medical centers in collecting, analyzing, and processing outcome data. This component of the legislation is particularly critical for several reasons:

### **1. Ensuring Accountability and Transparency:**

By dedicating resources to rigorous data collection and analysis, we can objectively measure the program's effectiveness. This transparency will not only justify the increased investment but also guide future improvements in cancer screening protocols.

### **2. Maximizing Clinical Utility:**

Collaborating with leading academic medical centers will facilitate the synthesis of clinical data into actionable insights. These insights can drive refinements in screening techniques, ensuring that the program continually adapts to new medical evidence and technological advancements.



### **3. Informing Policy and Best Practices:**

A robust data infrastructure will help create a feedback loop that informs the program. The outcomes of this analysis can lead to best practices that may improve the program and offer pathways to new or more advanced screening methods.

In summary, increasing the annual budget authorization to \$3,000,000 and allocating up to 20% of program funds for academic data analysis represent a strategic investment in the health and well-being of our firefighters. This legislation is a forward-thinking measure designed to enhance early cancer detection, drive technological innovation, and ensure continuous improvement through data-driven analysis.

On behalf of the members of Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland, we strongly urge the committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 849.

Submitted respectfully,



Jeffrey Buddle, President  
Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland

*The membership of the Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland includes 25 IAFF local affiliates from the following jurisdictions:*

*Federal: Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Fort George G. Meade, National Capital Federal Fire Fighters*

*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, Talbot County, Worchester County*

**SB0849-BT\_MACo\_SUP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Karrington Anderson

Position: FAV



## **Senate Bill 849**

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

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget & Taxation and Finance Committees

Date: February 26, 2025

From: Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 849, which enhances funding for the Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program. This bill increases the authorized annual budget allocation from \$500,000 to \$3,000,000 and permits up to 20% of these funds to be used by academic medical centers for data collection, analysis, and processing. These measures will significantly improve access to critical cancer screenings for firefighters across the state.

Counties fully support improving the health and safety of firefighters and all employees. Local governments have already taken substantial steps to provide extensive health coverage, including cancer screenings for firefighters. However, many jurisdictions with constrained budgets rely on grant programs to support these efforts. SB 849 offers another tool to help counties fulfill their commitment to firefighter health and safety without imposing additional unfunded mandates on local governments.

Counties recognize the critical contributions of firefighters, and the additional exposures and risks they assume as part of their duties. Those who employ career firefighters already offer various forms of cancer screening, but this legislation would help enhance and underpin those programs, and provide essential resources for expansion and improvement. Additionally, supporting academic medical centers in data collection and analysis will help refine screening methods, ensuring their effectiveness and clinical utility.

Counties have historically championed forward-thinking Firefighter and EMS incentives such as MACo's 2024 initiative bill, which enhanced firefighter recruitment and retention tools. Additionally, counties encourage participation in the Maryland Professional and Volunteer Firefighters Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program. Expanding the program's funding will help ensure that all firefighters—both career and volunteer—receive necessary cancer screenings, ultimately saving lives and supporting long-term public safety efforts.

For these reasons, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 849.

# **Frederick County Local 3666 Support Testimony SB 8**

Uploaded by: Katie Nash

Position: FAV



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

Contact: Katie Nash  
katie@energyadvocacy.com  
301.524.9142

**Letter for SB849.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mike McKay

Position: FAV

**MIKE MCKAY**  
*Legislative District 1*  
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



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Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Executive Nominations Committee

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

*Cumberland Office*  
100N Mechanic Street  
Cumberland, Maryland 21502  
240-362-7040

*Joint Committees*  
Administrative, Executive,  
and Legislative Review  
Children, Youth, and Families  
Program Open Space and Agricultural  
Land Preservation

*Williamsport Office*  
2N Conococheque Street  
Williamsport Town Hall  
Williamsport, Maryland

January 24, 2025

RE: Fire/EMS Coalition Support for SB849

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

The Fire/EMS Coalition would like to express their support for Senate Bill 849:  
**Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program – Funding.** This bill will require the Department of the Environment to transfer a certain amount of the license to transfer oil fee to the Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program. The Governor is now authorized to include \$3 million in the annual budget for the program and the Secretary of Health will be required to use the funds exclusively for the program.

The Fire/EMS Coalition supports Senate Bill 849 as it will allow for multiple funding sources to pay for cancer screenings of firefighters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike McKay'.

Senator Mike McKay  
Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland  
Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties

**Voting Organizations:**

**Maryland Fire Chief's Association (MFCA)**  
**Maryland State Firefighter's Association (MSFA)**  
**State Fire Marshal (OSFM)**  
**Maryland Fire Rescue Institute (MFRI)**  
**Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System (MIEMMS)**  
**Metro Fire Chief's Association**  
**Professional Firefighters of Maryland**

**Our Mission Statement**

The Maryland Fire/EMS Coalition unites Republicans and Democrats in support of fire/emergency services legislation that benefit all first responders. Becoming a member does not require taking positions on legislation; rather Coalition members are asked to offer support in a way that best benefits fire/emergency services in their respective Legislative Districts.



**SB849 testimony 2.pdf**

Uploaded by: Robert Phillips

Position: FAV

# MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

*Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel  
-a 501(c)3 Organization*



## **Legislative Committee**

17 State Circle  
Annapolis MD, 21401  
Chair: Robert Phillips  
Email: rfcchief48@gmail.com  
Cell: 443-205-5030  
Office: 410-974-2222

## **SB 849: Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program – Funding**

I am Chief Robert Phillips, Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland State Firefighters Association (MSFA)

I wish to present testimony in support of **Senate Bill 849: Professional and Volunteer Firefighter Innovative Cancer Screening Technologies Program – Funding**

The MSFA along with the entire firefighting community understands the toll cancer has taken on our present and past membership. Just last year the MSFA lost one of our own James "Jimmy" Malone to a cancer. If he had available the cancer tests, maybe he would be here speaking to you today. The tests are available, but expensive. This bill will allow for the Governor to make funds available to support the tests being given for early detection of cancer, allowing for a better treatment outcome.

The MSFA asks that you return a FAVORABLE vote on SB 849

Thank you and I would be glad to answer any questions you might have

Respectfully:

*Robert Phillips*

