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House Health and Government Operations Committee

February 6, 2025

House Bill 459 – *Health Insurance – Cancer Screening for Professional Firefighters – Required Coverage (James “Jimmy” Malone Act)*

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, the largest physician organization in Maryland, supports House Bill 459. This bill requires healthcare insurance carriers to cover a “professional firefighter” for preventive cancer screenings under the latest screening guidelines issued by the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF).<sup>1</sup>

Firefighters face a higher risk of developing cancer due to the nature of their work and are often exposed to dangerous chemicals and carcinogens. Screening can help mitigate some risks by providing detection of cancer in its earlier stages when it’s more treatable. Passage of House Bill 459 will ensure that healthcare insurance carriers either modify plans to provide the coverage recommended by IAFF or ensure that plans continue current coverage.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote.

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<sup>1</sup> [FFCancer\\_CancerScreenings.pdf](#)