



February 3, 2025

Re: HB 459 Health Insurance – Cancer Screening for Professional Firefighters – Required Coverage (James “Jimmy” Malone Act)

Position: **Support**

Chairwoman Peña-Melnyk and Members of the Health and Government Relations Bill,

On behalf of Wellness House of Annapolis, I write in **support of House Bill 459**, requiring certain health insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage without the requirement for copayment, coinsurance, or deductible to professional firefighters for cancer screening in accordance with certain guidelines; and requiring the Secretary of Budget and Management and certain counties and municipalities to ensure that certain employee health benefit plans comply with coverage requirements for professional firefighters.

Wellness House of Annapolis provides free services and programs to those who have been touched by cancer. From support groups for children, teens, and adults to healthy living services such as yoga, reiki, meditation, and therapeutic art classes, our goal is to help our members with cancer and their loved ones find the strength and support you need to focus on recovery and healing without the worries of the financial burden.

As we have seen time and time again, early detection is key to a best outcome for living well after a cancer diagnosis, which this bill directly accomplishes. Through our ongoing partnership with the Anne Arundel County Professional Fire Fighters, we understand Professional Fire Fighters are disproportionately affected by cancer. While we work shoulder to shoulder promoting early detection cancer screenings in the community at large, we applaud Delegate Pruski and the Bill’s cosponsors for their leadership in this matter.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a **favorable report for House Bill 459.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Jermann
Executive Director