

## S73 Testimony

- **Wording change to address members who were not afforded their initial cancer screening. Due to an oversight on municipal side, some were not aware that it was required or needed. We feel that if you get a screening now and are cancer free, you were also cancer free at the time of hire. Strike out the July 1, 2007 and add “while serving as a firefighter”.**
- **Adding cancers – Thyroid, Breast and Reproductive Cancers. Some States are stating “all cancers” are related to the occupation. More evidence is emerging that support this position. International Agency on Research of Cancer (IARC) has elevated firefighting to a Class 1 Carcinogen – Meaning the Occupation is directly related to causing cancer.**
- **Have included supporting documents on State Cancer presumptions, firefighters’ risk as compared to general public, and females increased risk.**
- **IAFF Active-Duty death stats**
  - **2002-2020 – 67% of names added to the wall have been due to occupational cancer**
  - **In the time frame from 2019-2020 there were 469 active-duty deaths of which 348 were occupational cancer related (almost 75%)**
  - **As we gather more statistics/numbers, these numbers will increase**
  - **There is a national database that was instituted by Congress about 2 years ago – voluntary participation, but may improve overall understanding of the cancer problem in the fire service.**
- **Cancer is the number 1 killer of firefighters.**
- **Overall Firefighters have almost a 10% higher chance of developing cancer and a 14% greater chance of dying from cancer than the general public.**
- **Firefighters are exposed to over 200 known chemicals in smoke**
- **Our gear and certain foams contain PFAS, giving us cancer**
- **Last part of language request is related to providing screenings**
  - **Early detection has proven to be the best route to identifying and treating cancer in our members.**
  - **Ultrasound, blood-test, and saliva tests are just a few, along with recommended cancer society screenings.**
  - **Advocate for early detection, taking a pro-active approach**