

Joint Council of Connecticut Fire Service Organizations

34 Perimeter Road
Windsor Locks, CT 06096

CT Fire Chief's Association

CT Fire Marshal's Association

CT Fire Equipment Mechanic's Association

CT Career Fire Chief's Association

CT State Firefighter's Association

CT Fire Department Instructor's Association

Uniformed Professional Firefighter's Association of CT

H.B. 5629, AAC WORKERS COMPENSATION FOR FIREFIGHTERS, POLICE OFFICERS AND EMERGENCY RESCUE WORKERS has been raised and had a public hearing in the Labor Committee. This bill is very important to our members and **we ask you to support this legislation.**

If passed, the legislation will provide presumptive coverage for fire fighters and police officers for cardiac emergencies and certain job-related illnesses – including communicable diseases like hepatitis and several cancers related to the job. Unlike the old heart and hypertension law, this bill permits municipalities to rebut any claim they believe is not warranted. Also, unlike the previous statute, coverage for heart emergencies is for "on duty" incidents only.

More than 40 states currently recognize certain illnesses as occupational hazards of fire fighting and police work and have enacted laws presuming these illnesses are job-related, giving fire fighters and police officers added peace of mind under already stressful circumstances.

Our members include volunteer fire fighters and municipal fire fighters and police officers numbering approximately 40,000 throughout the State of Connecticut. They are most interested in seeing that this bill becomes law and begins protecting them and their families. Please do not believe the unfounded hype that this bill carries a "budget busting" price tag. The facts do not support that. If you want proof, ask your municipal officials how many claims have been filed for these illnesses since 1996.

Thank you for your consideration and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us.

Respectfully,



Peter S. Carozza, Jr.
PRESIDENT
UPFFA

Edward Richards
PRESIDENT
Career Chiefs

James Wilkinson
PRESIDENT
CT State Firefighters Assoc.