



House Committee on Insurance  
Testimony RE: HB's 4171 and 4172  
February 18, 2021

On behalf of the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs (MAFC), we are writing to urge your support for HB 4172 (Rep. Yaroch) and HB 4171 (Rep. Allor). These bills amend the Worker's Disability Compensation Act to extend eligibility to part-time, paid on-call, and volunteer firefighters who develop certain cancers and meet other eligibility requirements to seek wage loss and medical benefits from the First Responder Presumed Coverage Fund (FRPC) created under the act.

We are all aware of the immediate risks that firefighters and other first responders face when called to assist in home and industrial fires as well as chemical spills and other accident scenes. But what is often not talked about is the health effects that manifest sometimes years later as a result of the exposure they experience in responding to these emergencies, such as cancers.

Currently there are 10 forms of cancer that are covered in the FRPC fund. We support the addition of breast and ovarian cancer and respectfully ask that non-HPV cervical cancer be included as well. For the purpose of clarity, we recommend that eligibility be defined as *a member of an organized fire department* in place of the current listing of all the types of fire personnel eg. part-time, paid on call and volunteer. MAFC believes this will simplify the statute and does not change the intent of the proposed legislation.

It should be further noted that the inclusion of all members of the fire services as proposed in the legislation does not utilize state general fund dollars and is not an expansion of the Workers Compensation Act. Last session the legislature created a source of funding for the Fund when it authorized on-line gaming.

MAFC respectfully asks you and your colleagues to support HB's 4172 and 4171 that provide essential support for our first responders across our state.

Thank you

Chief Jeffrey A. Roberts  
President, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs

