



HONORING OUR FALLEN HEROES ACT

S.237/H.R.1236

This bipartisan legislation would help **protect firefighters and their families** by ensuring that firefighters who pass away or become disabled from certain cancers as a result of their service are covered under the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program.

Background

Due to the nature of their jobs, which exposes them to toxic chemicals, stress, and other extreme conditions, firefighters in the United States are at risk for a number of diseases, including various cancers.

In 2015, a study was released by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), which found that firefighters are 9% more likely to develop cancer and 14% more likely to die from cancer than the general population.

More recently, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has declared the occupation of firefighting a Group 1 carcinogen.

Despite these studies, firefighter cancer is not recognized by the PSOB program.

The PSOB Program, run by the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, provides death and education benefits to survivors of fallen public safety officers, as well as disability benefits to qualified public safety officers.

Ask



Cosponsor S.237/H.R.1236.

Talking Points

Addressing Firefighter Cancer

The PSOB program must recognize the full scope of the risks faced by firefighters, including the well-documented cancer risks that firefighters face due to exposure to toxic smoke, chemicals, and hazardous materials on the job.

Supporting Firefighters and Families

Including cancer as a covered condition in the PSOB program would ensure that firefighters who develop cancer due to their work are supported, along with their families.

Protecting Those Who Protect Us

Firefighters put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe. By covering firefighter cancer under the PSOB program, we ensure that those who risk their health for others receive the support they deserve.