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MEMORANDUM

TO:

All House Members

FROM:

Representative Frank Farry

Representative Kevin Murphy

DATE:

February 10, 2011

SUBJECT:

Cosponsorship of Legislation - Cancer Presumption for Firefighters

In the near future, Representative Kevin Murphy and I plan to reintroduce the "Firefighter Cancer Presumption" legislation that was vetoed by former Governor Ed Rendell.

As you may know, a firefighter who contracts cancer due to exposure to heat, smoke, fumes and/or gases in the course of employment is not presently considered to be suffering from an occupational disease under the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act.

The proposal we plan to introduce will be a bill that has been part of negotiations with the stakeholders since the former governor vetoed House Bill 1231 of last session. From that time, we have been working with both the professional and volunteer firefighter representatives and the following groups to form a compromise: Delaware Valley Municipal Management Association, Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities and the Pennsylvania Associations of Boroughs, Townships, Supervisors and Commissioners.

We believe that the compromise reached between the parties involved will address the concerns raised in the veto message. This legislation will balance the interests of firefighters who contract cancer in the line of duty with the fiscal concerns of our local governments.

If you wish to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Dawn Pelletier at 260-6140 or via email at dpelleti@pahousegop.com.