

Rep Farry opening statement

Chairmen, Members, Emergency Responders and guest,

Thank You for taking the time to be here today and Thank You to Chairman Barrar for holding this hearing.

As I am confident you will hear from the panelists this morning, Heart and Lung medical provisions provide our first responders with responsible protections they need, and without question deserve, for the services to our community. Heart and Lung is a well settled law in terms of what it is intended to do, but what we need to settle and what has led to HB 2148, as well as HB 194 introduced by Representative O'Brien, is who was intended to be covered. I have worked with Rep O'Brien to ensure his language is included within HB 2148

Heart and Lung over the years has been expanded to cover many public sector employees beyond first responders but what has not been completed is ensuring all of our appropriate fire service personnel are covered. Please note that the FOP has a Senate bill working it's way through the legislative process to address their concerns.

HB 2148 represents omnibus legislation that the fire service has put together to ensure once and for all that our first responders are properly defined under the existing law. I look forward to the feedback today to ensure we have not overlooked a fire service provider. I understand based upon some feedback after the bills introduction that we may need to include the language

"firefighters employed by the Commonwealth", which we will be happy to include.

I apologize that a previous commitment precluded me from being here but I look forward to continuing to advance this cause. In closing, these members of the fire service are there for our community members in their time of need. We should not let statutory bickering prevent the government from being there for the first responders in their time of need. Thank you.

Rep. Frank Farry