



IAFF Local 302 Allentown Fire Fighters

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Good afternoon, Chair Hill-Evans, Chair Rigby and committee members. My name is Adam Perreault, I am an active professional fire fighter and the Political/Legislative Director for IAFF Local 302 Allentown Fire Fighters.

I thank you for your time and interest in fire fighters' health and safety. I am going to give a brief overview of PFAS and the steps the IAFF has taken to understand and address the health effects it has on fire fighters.

PFAS, the "Forever Chemical", is a family of chemicals that have been around since the forties. Their qualities make them very effective as a water repellent which is applied to fire fighters' personal protective equipment (PPE) and the base of extinguishing agents. Basically, we are in direct, prolonged contact with PFAS daily.

With this understanding, the IAFF has invested time and resources in developing a Health and Science Department to study the health effects of PFAS and working to ensure alternatives are developed by manufacturers.

Along with research and development, it is important that we look to enact immediate legislation that will protect fire fighters through requiring protective equipment labeling, advancing the development of alternatives, and dedicating funding to the replacement of PPE as alternatives become available.

It is our desire to work with the Pennsylvania state legislature to pass substantive legislation that protects all Pennsylvania Fire Fighters.

At this point I would like to yield the balance of my time to Travis Tamerantz, IAFF Project Advisory Panel member addressing Redefining Fire Fighter PPE. He will expound on the adverse effects of PFAS in fire fighter PPE and fire fighting foam. Thank you.

