

To Pennsylvania House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee on Security and Emergency Response Readiness:

I am a Stage IV Lung Cancer patient working with Cancer Researchers at Fox Chase Cancer Center by serving on the Nuclear Dynamics Community Outreach and Engagement Committee. I was diagnosed with cancer in July 2017 after suffering a seizure in my home. Prior to losing consciousness I was able to call 911 thankfully. Once I was diagnosed, I underwent a craniotomy, radiation to my brain and started on my first oral medication. This medication only works for so long before the cancer returns which happened in my case and I had to start my second line of treatment followed up with radiation to my main lung tumor. Not only did I have to take a significant amount of time off it was also a financial burden.

Cancer has many causes as we know and one of them occupational work hazards. Firefighters give of themselves freely to keep all citizens safe while knowing the occupational hazards they will encounter. Screening and early detection are key for long term survival. This is why I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed legislation (House Bill 2842 P.N. 3510) toward helping reduce out of pocket expenses for prostate cancer screening. Finding disease earlier leads to less invasive procedures for the person, not as much financial burden not only on the individual but insurance company and most important a chance of disease cure.

When Drs Whetstine and Whitaker approached me about this program, I could not wait to begin to embark on this life saving work. Just think of all the lives that can be impacted in this project. I am excited to continue working on the firefighter project at Fox Chase Cancer Center and hope the Pennsylvania House will stand with us behind such efforts to impact more lives though investment in research and partnership in screening efforts, including supporting House Bill 2842 P.N. 3510.

Please feel free to reach out with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

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