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Thank you in advance for considering this very important bill.

As reported by the Firefighter Cancer Support Network we know from several studies from the CDC and NIOSH that due to their work firefighters have a 9 % higher risk of being diagnosed with cancer and a 14% high risk of dying from cancer than the general U.S. Population. Some instances of cancer including mesothelioma has double the risk in firefighters. Cancer was the cause in 66% of career firefighter line-of-duty deaths between 2002 and 2019.

We have been able to take many steps in the industry to help limit exposure and ensure that we are taking preventive steps to protect ourselves and our families. If there can be any positive to a cancer diagnosis it is early detection and treatment. This bill will help to get that early detection out to our state and into the stations of our firefighters.

As a grassroots effort the fire service in Maine and the Maine Fire Chief's Association has been able to accomplish some early detection and without a doubt has saved lives because of it. Please support this bill.