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*Testimony of Rep. Scott Landry presenting*  
**LD 516, An Act to Reduce Cancer Among Firefighters by Providing  
Grants for Safety Equipment**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety*

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, I am Representative Scott Landry. I serve House District 75, which includes the towns of Chesterville and Farmington. Thank you for the opportunity to present **LD 516, An Act to Reduce Cancer Among Firefighters by Providing Grants for Safety Equipment.**

Firefighters are at a significantly increased risk for cancer because of the carcinogens they encounter while on the job. This bill would create the Firefighter Safety Equipment Fund, allowing the Maine Fire Protection Services Committee to provide grants to fire departments for the purchase and installation of certain equipment that can help limit firefighters' exposure to chemicals.

Eligible equipment purchases would include diesel vehicle exhaust systems, which reduce exposure to high concentrations of toxic particulates and gases found in diesel exhaust. Grant funds could also be used for the purchase and installation of heavy duty extractor washing machines, which are used to remove contamination from protective apparel.

I have been working closely with my constituent, Farmington firefighter Steve Bunker, on this proposal. He cannot be here today, but I would ask the chairs to please consider allowing him to speak at work session about his experience as a firefighter with a rare form of cancer and his work to prevent others from going through the same experience.

Firefighters respond at all hours to protect us. We should be doing all we can to keep them safe, too. Let's give them the tools they need to minimize exposure to chemicals that cause cancer.

Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.