

Resolution Number: 5

Submitted by: The Honorable Mayor Martin J. Walsh, City of Boston

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE FIREFIGHTER CANCER REGISTRY ACT

WHEREAS, mayors from across the country value the short-term and long-term health and well-being of our cities' first responders; and

WHEREAS, a 2010 National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) study found that firefighters had a higher rate of cancer diagnoses and cancer-related deaths than the general U.S. population. It also found that the chance of lung cancer diagnosis or death increased with the amount of time spent at fires; and

WHEREAS, more information, particularly via larger study sample sizes and more equitable representation of key demographic groups, would lead to a better understanding of occupational cancer risks and help inform exposure prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, bipartisan legislation entitled *The Firefighter Cancer Registry Act* (S.382/H.R. 931) has been introduced in the House and the Senate; and

WHEREAS, this bill directs the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to develop and maintain a voluntary registry of firefighters to collect history and occupational information that can be linked to existing data in state cancer registries; and

WHEREAS, this registry will be used to improve the monitoring of cancer among firefighters, enable researchers to study the relationship between firefighters' exposure to dangerous fumes and toxins and the increased risk for several major cancers, and to inform protective equipment and prevention techniques in the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to pass and the President to sign S.382/H.R. 931, the *Firefighter Cancer Registry Act*, into law to strengthen our understanding of the link between firefighting and cancer so we can work collectively to reduce the risk of occupation cancer facing firefighters.