Dear Representative ,

My name is (First / Last Name) and I/my family reside in your district.

I am writing you today as my firefighter (husband/wife/dad/mom/brother/sister/friend/neighbor) has a nine percent higher risk of being diagnosed with cancer and a fourteen percent higher risk of dying from cancer than the general U.S. population, according to research by the CDC/National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH). My Firefighter, along with the 17,500+ others, are responding to more than 20,000 fires in South Carolina each year.

This is why I am asking for you to **support House Bill H5139, Firefighter Cancer Health Care Benefit Plan.**

The Firefighter Cancer Health Care Benefit Plan is a supplemental insurance policy available to volunteer and career firefighters. The bill would; upon a diagnosis of cancer, entitle a firefighter to benefits, if a firefighter has been in a South Carolina Fire Department for at least five continuous years and within ten years of last date of active service.

Upon medical diagnosis, firefighters would be reimbursed up to $12,000 annually for any out of pocket medical expenses to include but not limited to; deductibles, copayments, or coinsurances costs incurred. A benefit of $20,000 would be provided upon the firefighter’s diagnosis as defined and not to exceed one benefit payment per calendar year. In the case of death, if my firefighter dies as a result of the cancer or circumstances, a $75,000 death benefit would be provided. This bill would also make a firefighter’s death, that is a result of the cancer or circumstances that arise from the treatment of cancer; a line of duty death in South Carolina.

The funding for H5139 would come from existing Premium Fire Insurance Tax assessed by the South Carolina Department of Insurance.

Thank you in advance for your **support of H5139, Firefighter Cancer Health Care Benefit Plan** and for your service to our State.

Respectfully,

Your Name