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TO: Members of the Ohio House Insurance Committee

FROM: Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association

DATE: May 16, 2017

RE: Substitute House Bill 27

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The Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association offers its support for amendment HC0061 to be accepted as amendment into Substitute House Bill 27. This amendment will make modifications to Senate Bill 27, firefighter cancer bill, which was passed in the 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly.

The modifications agreed to include:

Makes both of the following changes to the circumstances under current law in which the presumption, for purposes of the laws governing workers' compensation and the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, that a firefighter who is disabled due to cancer incurred the cancer while performing official duties as a firefighter can be rebutted:

Removes from the bill a provision that the presumption could be rebutted if there was evidence that the firefighter failed to use or improperly used protective equipment while performing official duties, unless the firefighter was instructed to do so by the firefighter's employer or supervisor or the employer or supervisor failed to make the equipment available to the firefighter;

Adds a provision that the presumption can be rebutted if there is evidence that shows, by a preponderance of competent scientific evidence, that exposure to the type of carcinogen alleged did not or could not have caused the cancer being alleged.

The Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association believes this is a fair compromise amongst all interested parties and also offers our support in having additional conversations after the Bureau of Workers Compensation completes its biennial report of the program.