Memorializing Resolution: ________________________________

This Memorializing Resolution Compelling the New York State Assembly and the Governor to pass the Cancer Presumptive Bill that would extend the already existing Volunteer Firefighters’ Benefit Law to cover all instances of melanoma, as well as cancers of the digestive, hematological, lymphatic, urinary, prostrate, neurological, breast and reproductive systems.

Assembly Bill: A 711

WHEREAS, it is firmly established in the occupational medicine literature that firefighters are exposed to many known and suspected carcinogens every time they respond to a fire scene. Numerous studies have measured levels of chemical carcinogens at structural and vehicle fires- and from the personal protective clothing of firefighters- at concentrations that are considered hazardous and well in excess of permissible workplace levels. These carcinogens include polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in soot and tars; benzene; formaldehyde; 1,4-butadiene; arsenic; polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs); dioxins; asbestos; and diesel engine exhaust.

WHEREAS, the uncontrolled environment conditions that occur during the knockdown and overhaul phases at fire scenes guarantee that firefighters are routinely exposed to these toxic chemicals. So it’s not surprising that studies of cancer in career firefighters find significant associations between firefighting and certain forms of cancer. The evidence is strongest for increased risk of brain, digestive tract (colorectal, stomach), genitourinary tract (bladder, kidney, testicles, prostrate), lympho-hematopoietic (leukemia, Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, multiple myeloma), skin (melanoma) and lung cancers among volunteer firefighters. The current presumptive cancer bills covering career firefighters were built on the results of these studies. Why don’t we have the same coverage for our volunteers?

WHEREAS, there are 110,000 reasons, why our volunteer firefighters should have presumptive cancer coverage. Presumptive cancer legislation is the top legislative agenda for New York’s volunteer firefighters, and the volunteer fire service of __________________________ County/Town/Village urges our county/town/village legislators to support this bill. Volunteer firefighters did not volunteer to get cancer!
RESOLVED, that the _________________________________ calls upon Governor Andrew Cuomo, and the New York State Assembly, to pass the Cancer Presumptive Bill for volunteer firefighters so that volunteers can be protected from the dangers they face with cancer each and every day.

__________________________________________                         _________________
Signature of Authorized Representative                          Date