Oregon House Democrats Pass Bill to Protect Firefighters with Occupational Cancer

HB 4113 A will ensure that all firefighters facing cancer are fairly covered by workers’ compensation policies

SALEM, Ore.—Today, Oregon House Democrats passed House Bill 4113 A, which will include bladder and gynecologic cancers as occupational diseases presumed to result from employment for firefighters under Oregon’s workers’ compensation law.

Under Oregon law, reproductive cancers such as testicular or prostate cancer are already recognized as occupational hazards for firefighters and included in the workers’ compensation presumption. Gynecologic cancers such as ovarian or cervical cancer are not currently included.

“As firefighters, when our community calls on us, we’re there,” said Representative Dacia Grayber (D-Tigard). “This bill ensures that our workers’ compensation system supports our firefighters when they are facing cancer caused by the job they do. That support must include fair coverage for all firefighters.”

Cancer is the leading cause of line-of-duty deaths for firefighters in the United States. Oregon is one of only eight states that do not designate bladder cancer as a presumptive occupational disease for firefighters.

The bill passed the House 55-3 and now moves to the Senate for consideration.

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