May 8, 2026

Chair Marty and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Professional Fire Fighters (MPFF) we write in support of SF 4667 (Seeberger) a bill which would expand public safety officer benefits to includes instances where a public safety officer dies in the line-of-duty from an exposure-related cancer or illness.

SF 4667 is a much-needed benefit expansion. As a profession, firefighting is classified as a Group 1 Carcinogen, meaning it is definitively known to cause cancer in humans. Firefighters encounter numerous dangerous and toxic chemicals at each fire response and these repeated exposures result in higher incidences of cancer in firefighters than the rest of the population. In 2025, nearly 80% of International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) member line-of-duty deaths were due to occupational cancer.

Passage of SF 4667 will align Minnesota with Federal-level benefits passed through the *Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act* (Klobuchar, D-MN/Cramer, R-ND) which provides support for the families of firefighters and other first responders who pass away or become permanently disabled from service-related cancers.

SF 4667, if passed by the Senate Finance committee and the legislature, would provide the support that firefighters in Minnesota and their families need when they are facing an exposure-related cancer or illness. The men and women of the fire service devote their lives to keeping Minnesotans safe in their most difficult times. Please pass SF 4667 to support our fire fighters and their families when facing the difficulties of exposure-related cancer and line-of-duty death.

Respectfully,

Scott Vadnais

Scott Vadnais
President
Minnesota Professional Firefighters