



## **Written Only Neutral Testimony on HB 2719**

**Kansas State Firefighters Association  
Kevin Flory, President**

**House Committee on Federal & State Affairs  
March 5, 2018**

Good afternoon Chairman Barker and fellow committee members. My name is Kevin Flory, and I am the President of the Kansas State Firefighters Association (KSFFA). Our association represents the approximately 16,000 members of the Kansas Fire Service both paid and volunteer, firefighter and chief officer. I am writing today to give neutral input on HB 2719.

This bill will help KPF members with medical disease have a more uniform definition of what is covered. The KSFFA is fully supportive of the inclusion of Cancer and Hepatitis C as a recognized disease as presented on line 15 and 16 of page 3. Our concerns are with the language that is presented beginning on line 35 that references Hepatitis C. The processes spelled out in the bill are contrary to the current recommended guidance given by the Centers for Disease Control. Employers are currently mandated to have an infection control plan in place if their employees are at risk of exposure to diseases such as Hepatitis C. The current bill language places restrictions on how reporting and exposure treatment are to occur. Particularly, it requires old processes that are not in use and have not been for several years nationally.

KSFFA would ask that this bill either be tabled, or the language on baseline testing and exposure testing be removed and merely reference to follow the local process under the designated infection control plan for each entity. This will allow each local unit of government to have their own process that is spelled out by their current infection control plan or would make an employer have to meet the federal mandate to have an infection control plan in place.

**We want to make it clear that we support the inclusion of the language for cancer and Hepatitis C in this bill. However, the processes need to be left generic enough to keep pace with modern medical research and treatment methods in the future.**

Please feel free to contact any of our board members if you would have questions of the fire service on this issue. As always, your support is appreciated by the fire service.