

Submitter: Mariya Fuge
On Behalf Of: OSFFC
Committee: House Committee On Business and Labor
Measure: HB4113

HB 4113 Testimony

Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Bonham and Grayber, members of the House Committee on Business and Labor,

For the record my name is Mariya Fuge, resident of House District #51 and a career Portland Fire Lieutenant/Paramedic since 2001.

Today I'm testifying in favor of HB 4113, the addition of cancers of the female reproductive system and bladder cancer to the list of qualifying cancers listed in ORS 656.802

Being a fire fighter in Oregon's largest city, Portland, is both an honor and a privilege. Seven and a half percent of my career professional membership across Oregon is female. The female contribution as part of Oregon's fire service is only one one-thousandth of a percent of Oregon's entire workforce of 2.1 Million workers.

HB 4113 brings equity and inclusion of female reproductive cancers as a part of ORS 656.802, along with adding bladder cancer to the list of presumptive cancers considered occupational for a career fire fighter in Oregon.

Being a female fire fighter has its difficulties. When I began my career, the simple thought of having correctly fitting protective gear was a dream. During my entire career I have championed equality and inclusion in every facet of my career. Having chaired or been a member of the Equity, Continuous Quality Improvement, and the Clothing Committee...to name a few, my goal is to improve and balance policy, influence procurement that represents the entire fire department not just men or women.

The Bill addresses reproductive cancers where they did not in the original Bill in 2009. Fair, balanced and in line with Management Labor Advisory Committee mission to evaluate changes in the Workers Compensation system.

I thank you for the opportunity to address these issues of fairness, equity and proper workplace protections for Oregon's fire fighters.