



MINNESOTA STATE FIRE DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATION

February 10, 2021

Members of the House of Representatives,

The rigors of firefighting have been increasingly dangerous to firefighters, as you have been made aware of in recent years. Death rates have increased significantly, not in the line of duty, but rather as job related exposures that often do not show their ugliness until months or even years after the firefighter is no longer on the job. Cancer, Cardiac and Mental Health issues are the specific incidents that have risen exponentially over the last several years.

The bill that has been created and authored, The Hometown Heroes Assistance Act, when enacted, will assist firefighters immediately and put resources, tools, and support in their hands, to combat what they are facing in the form of Cancer, Cardiac issues, and Mental Health concerns. Firefighting requires resources, tools, and support and therefore firefighters should be given these necessary tools to help them after they are done serving their communities.

Awareness training has been presented to firefighters with the handful of dollars the Fire Safety Account has allotted so the culture change in how to do the job more safely has been in place for several years now in Minnesota. This bill will offer some relief for firefighters but more importantly, this acknowledges that the job of firefighting is dangerous and can have long lasting implications on the most important asset in the fire service, the firefighter.

On behalf of the Minnesota State Fire Department Association, I urge you to recognize the importance of this legislation and to support your firefighters by moving this bill forward.

Sincerely,

Mark Rosenblum
President

28711 Holly Drive NW, Isanti, MN 55040
www.msfd.org