



Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

Affiliated with the International Association of Fire Fighters AFL-CIO CLC

Sept 16, 2025

Dear Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Neal, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts, representing over 13,000 firefighters and paramedics across the Commonwealth, I would like to thank the Committee for taking up this critical legislation and to express our strong support for advancing the Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection (MCED) Screening Coverage Act.

Cancer remains the leading cause of line-of-duty death for firefighters. Two out of three firefighters who die in service lose their lives to cancers caused by occupational exposures. While there are more than 100 known cancer types, current Medicare law and standard medical practice only cover the cost of screenings for five types of cancer. This gap in the law leaves far too many cancers undetected until it is too late. Multi-cancer early detection blood tests have the power to change that reality by identifying dozens of cancers earlier, when treatments are more effective, survival rates are higher, and costs are lower.

This legislation already enjoys broad bipartisan support, with more than two-thirds of both the House and Senate signed on, as well as the endorsement of more than 550 patient advocacy organizations. Past Congresses acted to expand Medicare coverage for mammograms, colonoscopies, and pap smears. It is time to act again. Aging Americans, who face the highest risk, should not be last in line to benefit from life-saving medical advances.

We respectfully urge the Committee to advance this bill without delay. For firefighters, and for the millions of Americans who will face a cancer diagnosis this year, access to MCED screenings could be the difference between life and death.

Sincerely,

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