



April 10, 2019

Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
State Capitol, Room 4015  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblymember Kamlager-Dove:

The above organizations respectfully **oppose Assembly Bill 1400** (Kamlager-Dove).

The California workers' compensation system provides generous benefits to firefighters who are diagnosed with cancer. Medical evidence has linked excessive exposure to carcinogens with cancer, so firefighters do not need to demonstrate work causation for related workers compensation benefits. Instead, these injuries and illnesses are presumed under the law to be work related due to the exposure to carcinogens directly related to firefighting operations. Since these injuries are presumed to be industrial, compensation awarded for these injuries must include full hospital, surgical, medical treatment, disability indemnity payments, and death benefits.

Existing law specifically excludes administrative personnel from the presumption that cancer is industrial because they are not exposed to the risks of engaging in fire suppression, rescue operation, the protection of life or property. Assembly Bill 1400 expands the qualification for the cancer presumption benefits from firefighters to all "fire service personnel", without defining what classifications this includes. This would grant presumptive benefits to non-public safety positions that are not exposed to the same safety or health hazards.

Assembly Bill 1400 fails to acknowledge that the broad application of the bill's provisions would ultimately lead to major investigative difficulties, exposure to civil liability by the local governments employing the firefighter personnel and a misuse of public funds.

Our goal as public employers is to help our injured employees receive the appropriate evidence-based medical care to recover from their work-related illnesses. There should be a broad conversation about presumption eligibility that examines the cost and impacts that such changes would have on injured workers and on local budgets prior to any further coverage expansion.

For these reasons, we request **oppose** Assembly Bill 1400.

Should you have any questions regarding our position, please contact Faith Lane Borges (CAJPA) at (916) 441-5050, Paul Smith (RCRC) at (916) 447-4806, Dillon Gibbons (CSDA) at (916) 442-7887, Josh Gauger (CSAC) at (916) 650-8129, Jason Schmelzer (CCWC) at (916) 446-4645, Dane Hutchings (League) at (916) 658-8200, Jean Hurst (Urban CC) at (916) 803-4754, or Jen Hamelin (CSAC-EIA) at (916) 850-7300.

cc: Tom Daly, Chair, Assembly Insurance  
Members, Assembly Insurance Committee  
Mark Rakich, Assembly Insurance Committee