

Chairman of the Board  
**WILLIAM E. SOPKO**  
President, William Sopko & Sons Co., Inc.



President  
**ERIC L. BURKLAND**

February 22, 2016

The Honorable Jay Hottinger  
Chairman, Senate Insurance Committee  
Senate Building  
1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

**Re: Senate Bill 27**

Dear Chairman Hottinger:

I write to provide The Ohio Manufacturers' Association's (OMA) perspective on Senate Bill 27.

Senate Bill 27 says a firefighter, who is disabled as result of certain specified cancers outlined in the bill, is presumed to have incurred the cancer while performing his or her work-related duties. They would be eligible to receive Ohio workers' compensation benefits without the requirement of a medical examination linking the disease to their firefighting work duties.

It is the OMA's understanding that Ohio workers' compensation laws currently allow a firefighter to receive treatment for cancers incurred in the line of duty. The difference is that today the law *does not presume* these outlined cancers were work-related. Currently, it is the responsibility of the firefighter to receive a medical exam that links the illness to work duties.

OMA's focus on the proposed legislation is on the potential cost and how it could impact other occupations, public and private.

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation issued an actuarial report last year estimating the cost impact of Senate Bill 27. While the Bureau concedes it would be hard to predict the exact impact, it states that there could be an increase of an estimated \$75 million for local governments.

There is also a concern about carving out just one type of employee who is exposed to carcinogens. More study on the impact on public and private sector employees would be prudent.

Thank you for considering our thoughts. I am available for further discussion and look forward to more dialogue. My contact information is [rbrundrett@ohiomfg.com](mailto:rbrundrett@ohiomfg.com) or (614) 629-6814.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert A. Brundrett".

Robert Brundrett  
Director, Public Policy Services  
The Ohio Manufacturers' Association