

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JANUARY 2024 AS
FIREFIGHTER CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, firefighters serve their communities by putting residents' safety above their own; and

WHEREAS, firefighters often work in a toxic environment of smoke, soot and other carcinogens; and

WHEREAS, according to research, firefighters have a 9% greater chance of being diagnosed with cancer and a 14% greater chance of dying from cancer than the general population; and

WHEREAS, occupational cancer is a leading cause of line-of-duty deaths in firefighters and has reached epidemic levels; and

WHEREAS, studies have found a direct correlation between the chemical exposures firefighters experience on the job and an increased risk of cancer for those firefighters; and

WHEREAS, all 50 states recognize cancer as a presumptive workers' compensation claim for firefighters; and

WHEREAS, early detection of cancer through routine screening leads to earlier treatment and better disease outcomes, including improved survival and reduced morbidity; and

WHEREAS, the International Association of Fire Fighters and the Firefighter Cancer Support Network have declared January as Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize January 2024 as Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month, and we encourage fire departments across the State to participate in the activities of the International Association of Fire Fighters and the Firefighter Cancer Support Network.