



Oncology Nursing Society

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Jeffrey M. Zirger
Information Collection Review Office
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road NE, MS H21-8
Atlanta, GA 30329

May 21, 2024

RE: Docket No. CDC-2024-0020

Dear Mr. Zirger,

Oncology nurses are leaders in the healthcare arena, committed to continuous learning and leading the transformation of cancer care by advocating for high quality care for people with cancer. Oncology nurses are privileged to support people with cancer through the entire cancer experience, from diagnosis and treatment into survivorship or as they face their end-of-life journey. As such, they provide a unique perspective on improving cancer care and prevention.

Given the increased risk of cancer among firefighters, **ONS is pleased to support the National Firefighters Registry (NFR)**. Complete, accurate and timely data is critical in identifying risk, causality, and to being effective in developing education, awareness and preventative measures. We applaud the measures CDC has made to make the registration process easier and smoother for enrollees and look forward to working with you to reduce the cancer burden among this population.

As you know, cancer was the cause of 66% of the career firefighter line-of-duty deaths from 2002 to 2019. As a result of their occupational exposure to high levels of toxic chemicals, firefighters have a 9% higher risk of being diagnosed with cancer, and a 14% higher risk of dying from cancer, than the general population. Among the cancers firefighters are disproportionately affected by are lung, kidney, gastrointestinal cancers and mesothelioma, a very rare cancer. In addition, emerging research suggests that this increased risk is also passed forward to children of firefighters, however much is still unknown about causality, risk, and prevention for firefighters and their families which may be achieved with the National Firefighters Registry.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. For more information, please contact Jaimie Vickery, Director of Government Affairs and Advocacy for ONS at healthpolicy.org.

Sincerely,

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