



KANSAS STATE COUNCIL OF FIRE FIGHTERS



Affiliated With

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS • KANSAS AFL-CIO • CENTRAL LABOR BODIES

Testimony of Robert S. Wing

Re: Senate Bill 491

My name is Robert S. Wing. I am a retired Captain in the Fire Department of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas. I was a Fire Fighter in Kansas City for 42 years. I also served as President of the Kansas State Council of Fire Fighters and President/Business Manager of the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 64 and currently serve as President Emeritus of both organizations. I ask for your support in favor of S.B. 491.

The intent of S.B. 491 is to amend K.S.A. 44-508 concerning workers compensation to include "Post-traumatic stress disorder" as a work related injury and/or illness. The Kansas State Council of Fire Fighters adamantly support this legislation.

"PTSD" has been recognized as being a duty related injury/illness for diagnosed, affected military personnel and rightly so. The firefighters that I represent believe that this recognition being extended to affected, diagnosed firefighters, police officers and EMS personnel is long overdue.

We believe that traumatic situations that all emergency response personnel are exposed to in the performance of their duties while working for their respective employers and protecting the communities they served with professional diagnoses, should be covered by the Kansas Workers Compensation Act as a duty related injury/illness.

In summary the women and men in the Fire/EMS service that I represent work hard to serve and protect their communities. Extending this coverage to all affected public safety personnel is the right thing to do.

Thank you for your time and attention to this very important issue. I will be happy to respond to any questions or concerns that you may have.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert S Wing
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