

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 307**

Introduced by Wordekemper, 15.

WHEREAS, January has been designated as Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month to provide firefighters with necessary tools and guidance to develop life-saving protocols for cancer prevention and to support those with cancer diagnoses; and

WHEREAS, firefighter occupational cancer is the leading cause of line-of-duty death in the fire service; and

WHEREAS, firefighters are exposed to hundreds of different chemical substances in the form of gases, vapors, and particulates during firefighting operations, including known and suspected carcinogens such as benzene, formaldehyde, and asbestos; and

WHEREAS, firefighters come into contact with hazardous substances through inhalation, skin absorption, eye contact, or ingestion during fire response and training activities; and

WHEREAS, contaminated turnout gear and personal protective equipment can continue to expose firefighters to carcinogens at fire stations and in emergency vehicles even if properly cleaned and stored; and

WHEREAS, education and training on safe work practices, proper use and maintenance of personal protective equipment, cancer screening, early detection, and healthy lifestyle choices are essential to reducing occupational cancer risk among firefighters; and

WHEREAS, with proper prevention strategies, early detection, and support systems, firefighters can reduce their cancer risk and maintain long and healthy careers; and

WHEREAS, the observation of Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month in January 2026 provides the opportunity to share experiences and information and raise

public awareness about occupational cancer in the fire service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes the month of January 2026 as Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month in Nebraska.

2. That the Legislature expresses its support for all firefighters diagnosed with occupational cancer and recognizes the families and support systems of those diagnosed for the irreplaceable care they give.

3. That the Legislature honors the service and sacrifice of Nebraska's firefighters and encourages fire departments, emergency services organizations, and communities across Nebraska to promote awareness of firefighter cancer risks and prevention strategies.