

**Expressing the need for the Public Safety Officers Benefits Program to provide financial assistance to victims of heart attacks and strokes.**

Whereas; public safety officers (firefighters, police, EMS) regularly place their lives in jeopardy in service to their communities.

Whereas; the Public Safety Officers Benefits Program provides financial assistance to families of public safety officers killed in the line of duty, as well as to officers permanently disabled while on the job.

Whereas; heart attacks and strokes are the leading cause of injury to firefighters.

Whereas; heart attacks and strokes account for nearly half of all deaths for firefighters.

Whereas; surviving families must go to great lengths to overcome the burden of proof and prove that the heart attack or stroke was "direct and proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty."

Whereas; in almost every case of death by heart attack or stroke, it is ruled that the heart attack or stroke was not a direct result of an injury sustained in the line of duty and the families receive no benefits.

***Be it resolved, CFSI supports legislation to extend federal benefits to public safety officers who die or are permanently disabled due to heart attacks or strokes while on duty.***

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