



Date April 2nd, 2019

To: The Honorable Jim Wood, Chair
The Honorable Chad Mayes, Vice Chair
Members, Assembly Health Committee

From: Rex D. Frazier, President
Seren Taylor, Senior Legislative Advocate

Re: AB 1116 (Grayson) Firefighters: Peer Support.
AB 1049 (Grayson) Sales and Use Taxes: Exemption: On-Call Volunteer Fire
Department: Equipment.

Assembly Health Committee Hearing, April 9th 2019 1:30PM

PIFC Position: Support

The Personal Insurance Federation of California (PIFC) is a statewide trade association that represents five of the nation's largest property and casualty insurance companies (State Farm, Liberty Mutual Insurance, Progressive, Mercury, and Nationwide as well as associate member NAMIC) who write personal lines auto and home insurance in California.

California's firefighters are always on the front lines and PIFC is pleased to support legislation to help our state and local firefighters in their mission to protect life and property, and to serve our communities.

AB 1049 will provide a sales and use tax exemption on equipment purchased for exclusive use by an on-call volunteer fire department. Volunteer fire departments are an important layer of defense for families and structures against wildfire damages. AB 1049 supports these groups by easing financial burdens associated with purchasing essential firefighting equipment.

AB 1116 will create the Firefighter Peer Support and Crisis Referral Services Pilot Program. Firefighters frequently respond to traumatic incidents and dangerous circumstances in their mission to keep the public safe. This bill can help ensure that our fire and emergency services professionals have the supportive services they need to manage occupational stress and continue to protect the public.

In addition to the drastic economic impacts associated with fighting wildfires, the recent catastrophic wildfires of 2017 and 2018 have exposed our firefighters to devastating losses of life and property. As the State approaches another fire season, we must remain vigilant in ensuring our first responders have all the resources required to protect our communities and themselves.

AB 1049 and AB 1116 recognize this on-going need to support, both financially and emotionally, the men and women who are the first lines of defense against fires.

For all these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 1049 and AB 1116. If you have any questions regarding PIFC's position, please contact Seren Taylor at (916) 442-6646.

cc: Assemblymember Timothy Grayson, Author
Judith Babcock, Senior Consultant, Assembly Health Committee
Alex Khan, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Tam Ma, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor