



Date: July 24th, 2019

To: The Honorable Anthony Portantino, Chair
The Honorable Patricia Bates, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Appropriations Committee

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

Re: AB 1116 (Grayson) Firefighters: Peer Support.

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 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 1116 recognizes this on-going need to support the men and women who are the first lines of defense against fires.

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

cc: Assemblymember Timothy Grayson, Author
Shaun Naidu, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Matt Osterli, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Tam Ma, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor