



**SB 175 Testimony
Feb 28, 2018**

Good Afternoon

I am Garry Briese, Executive Director, Colorado State Fire Chiefs

CSFC represents the leadership of the nearly 400 volunteer, combination and career fire departments across Colorado. Our members include rural, suburban and urban fire departments.

You have heard me testify previously about the importance of excellence in labor management relations in the fire service.

SB 17-214 is the most recent excellent example of fire service labor management organizations and this state legislature working together

As a direct result of this legislature's recognition of this excellent relationship, Colorado State Fire Chiefs and the Colorado Professional Firefighters worked in cooperation with colleague organizations such as the city and fire district risk managers, human resource managers, Pinnacol and the Special District Association of Colorado and the Colorado Municipal League....

And the Colorado legislature to create the most innovative and cost-effective solution in the nation to provide coverage for firefighters experiencing heart issues, respiratory impacts and, most significantly firefighters diagnosed with the five covered types of cancer.

SB 17-214 established the Colorado Voluntary Firefighter Cancer Benefits Program.

SB 214 passed both chambers of this legislature with a vote of 100/0 and was signed into law.

The Colorado State Fire Chiefs, Colorado Professional Firefighters and the Colorado Senate & House have worked together to bring nationally recognized solutions to this legislature and to local governing bodies across Colorado.

CSFC & CPFF have worked with fire departments from Ft Collins to Canon City, from the Denver Metro Area to Grand Junction, in both combination and career fire departments, to develop strong labor management relations, to increase and improve communications, improve services to our communities, increase firefighter safety, resolve conflicts and build bridges where bridges did not exist before

Our citizens are safer, our firefighters are safer, and our communities are safer because of this demonstrated commitment to excellence in labor management relations

Labor management relations has two essential components....labor and management.

One cannot be successful without the other.

The Colorado State Fire Chiefs requests that you recognize the importance of strengthening and supporting excellence in labor management relations rather than considering the placement of obstacles between labor and management.

Thank you and I would be pleased to take questions

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