



# PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS

O F N E W H A M P S H I R E

Honorable Chairman Creighton  
House Labor, Industrial, and  
Rehabilitative Services Committee  
33 North State Street, Room 307  
Concord, NH 03301

*RE: Testimony in Support of HB299, relative to the award of attorneys' fees and costs in workers' compensation claims.*

Dear Chairman Creighton and Members of the Labor, Industrial, and Rehabilitative Services Committee,

My name is Brian Ryll, and I am proud to serve as the President of the Professional Fire Fighters of New Hampshire, representing over 2,000 professional fire fighters and paramedics across our state. I am here today to express our unwavering support for the proposed amendments to RSA 281-A:44, VI, which reimburses the claimant for legal fees if they prevail at the department level.

Workers' compensation claims are frequently denied by insurance carriers, and many employees are either unable or unwilling to appeal these denials to the Department of Labor due to the high cost of attorney fees, which often outweigh the potential benefits of the claim. Currently, there is no effective deterrent to prevent insurance carriers from arbitrarily denying valid claims. This legislation introduces an important safeguard to ensure that employees are treated fairly and have access to the protections they deserve, while avoiding any material impact to the administration of the workers compensation system.

We believe that this legislation is a small, but impactful change that protects the rights of all employees in New Hampshire, and we would ask for the committee's full support.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Ryll  
President  
Professional Fire Fighters of New Hampshire