

# The Connecticut General Assembly



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## UPFFA NAMES REP. COOK CO- LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

**State Representative Michelle Cook** (D-Torrington) has been recognized as the 2016 Co-Legislator of the Year Award by the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association of Connecticut.

This award recognizes Rep. Cook's efforts and dedication in fighting for legislation that provides all of Connecticut's firefighters with coverage in the event that they are diagnosed with cancer.

"Not only am I deeply honored to receive this award, but I am also very grateful to receive it from an association that plays a vital role in Connecticut every single day," Rep. Cook said. "It has always been important for me to help our firefighters, as they are the ones that risk their lives for us in the line of duty. They sacrifice themselves for our family, friends and neighbors, and I was proud to be fighting for them this session. I appreciate all the work firefighters do for our communities and I am proud that with this legislation, they will finally be getting the care they deserve."

Throughout the entire legislative session, Rep. Cook championed this bill, An Act Concerning Workers Compensation Coverage for Current and Former Uniformed Members of Paid or Volunteer Firefighters, which establishes a relief fund used for wage replacement of those who are diagnosed with certain conditions of cancer as a result of their service as paid municipal or volunteer firefighters.

In addition to providing wage benefits, this bill also requires firefighters to take preventative measures to avoid contracting cancer. Eligibility for the relief fund requires firefighters to maintain a healthy lifestyle and undergo regular pre-screening for cancer.

Rep. Cook will be receiving the award on Sept. 6, 2016 at the Austrian Donau Club 545 Arch Street, New Britain, at 11:30 a.m.