



# WISCONSIN FIRE & EMS COALITION

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**To:** Members of the Wisconsin State Legislature

**From:** Wisconsin Fire and EMS Coalition

**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2023

**Re: Please Consider Co-Sponsoring LRB 0069/1 and LRB 1229/1**

PTSD Coverage for EMS, Volunteer Firefighters, Public Safety Dispatchers,  
Medical Examiners, Coroners and Corrections Officers



On behalf of the organizations that comprise the Wisconsin Fire & EMS Coalition, we are asking members of the State Senate and State Assembly to please consider becoming a co-sponsor to LRB 0069/1 and LRB 1229/1, whose lead authors include Senator André Jacque, Senator Melissa Agard, Representative David Armstrong and Representative Jodi Emerson.

This legislation is a trailer to 2021 Senate Bill 11 (Act 39), legislation that provided coverage to some firefighter and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) practitioners. It did not include those EMS practitioners that were not full-time firefighters, including EMS practitioners not attached to a full-time fire department and volunteers.

The men and women that serve as firefighters and EMS practitioners experience the same work-related experiences, challenges, and hazards regardless of how a service is organized and regardless of whether the individual is full-time or part-time paid or volunteer status.

Keep in mind that approximately 78% of Wisconsin’s EMS services and fire departments rely on volunteers. And, regardless of how a fire department or EMS service is organized, the department or service provides workers compensation coverage.

PTSD can be treated. It is therefore critical that the men and women we depend upon as first responders who are diagnosed with PTSD have access to treatment and the support they need to recover.

It should be noted that similar legislation, 2021 SB-681, in early 2022 passed both the Senate Labor and Regulatory Reform Committee (5-0) and the full State Senate (32-0) unanimously.

Again, please consider becoming a co-sponsor to LRB 0069/1 and LRB 1229/1. According to the co-sponsorship memo the deadline to co-sponsor is **Tuesday, February 28, 2023**

Thank you.

