

EXHIBIT 8  
DATE 2-16-05  
HB 534



Affiliated with AFL-CIO  
International Association of Fire Fighters

# MONTANA STATE COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS

February 15, 2005

To the members of the House Business and Labor Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Montana State Council of Professional Fire Fighters I would urge you to vote do pass on HB 534.

Fire fighters and emergency responders are often the first individuals at some of the most horrific and tragic scenes that you can imagine. Occasionally these responders are plagued by flashbacks of these scenes that can hinder these responders in performing their duties, or can alter their lives when they are off duty. Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome is diagnosable and real. I have known fire fighters that have quit the fire service or retired earlier than they had planned because they could not face the possibility of responding to the same type of calls that had produced the stress that bothered them.

This type of mental harm could be caused by a single incident, or could be brought on by a career of responding to these stressful incidents. For the health of our first responders and their families, I urge you to vote do pass on HB 534.

Thank you,

Pat Clinch, Legislative Chairman  
Montana State Council of Professional Fire Fighters