AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 2499
OFFERED BY Mr. Keller

Strike the text of the amendment and insert the following:

SECTION 1. GAO REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report on the health care benefits and treatment under chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code (known as the “Federal Employees’ Compensation Act”) provided to Federal firefighters with the following conditions:

(1) Bladder cancer.
(2) Brain cancer.
(3) Breast cancer.
(4) Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
(5) Colorectal cancer.
(6) Esophageal cancer.
(7) Kidney cancer.
(8) Leukemias.
(9) Lung cancer.
(10) Mesothelioma.
(11) Multiple myeloma.
(13) Prostate cancer.
(14) Skin cancer (melanoma).
(15) A sudden cardiac event or stroke while, or not later than 24 hours after, engaging in activities related to the employee’s occupation.
(16) Testicular cancer.
(17) Thyroid cancer.
(b) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—
(1) a description of any known barriers to the delivery of health care to Federal firefighters under chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code (known as the “Federal Employees’ Compensation Act”) and the degree to which such delivery impacts the ability of firefighters with legitimate medical needs, including firefighters in rural areas, to access treatment for diseases described in subsection (a);
(2) an evaluation of the claims under such Act for firefighters and survivors claims who have submitted a claim for benefits under such Act and have
been approved, denied, or are waiting for a final determination, including—

(A) the percentages of claims approved;

and

(B) the average amount of time it takes for a claim to be resolved; and

(3) a description of the standard that the Department of Labor is using to determine this causation with respect to such claims, including information on how the Department created such standard and the frequency with which the Department regularly updates the standard to take into account the latest scientific research, if at all.

Add at the end the following:

Amend the title to read as follows: “To direct the Comptroller General to prepare a report on health care benefits and treatment for Federal firefighters with certain health conditions.”