



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS®

HAROLD A. SCHAITBERGER
General President

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February 6, 2012

The Honorable Darrell Issa, Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Elijah Cummings, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Issa and Ranking Member Cummings:

On behalf of the nation's 300,000 professional fire fighters and emergency medical personnel, I write to express my strong opposition to H.R. 3813, the misnamed Securing Annuities for Federal Employees Act of 2012.

This legislation would increase federal employee contributions and cut federal retirement benefits for millions of middle-income Americans. It would amount to an unfair tax increase today on those workers who choose public service, and jeopardize their retirement security in the future. At a time when most experts agree that Americans are not financially prepared for their retirement years, furthering weakening retirement savings is both mean-spirited and harmful to our nation's future prosperity.

The nation's federal fire fighters protect many of America's most vital assets, ranging from sensitive military bases to Veterans hospitals. Many of them work an onerous 72 hour work week, and they earn far less per hour than their counterparts who work for municipal governments. To impose an unwarranted tax on this group and undermine their hopes for a secure retirement not only harms those workers who have given so much to our country, but will make it far more difficult for the federal government to recruit qualified fire fighters in the future.

For these reasons, we urge you to oppose HR 3813. Thank you for your consideration of the views of America's front line domestic defenders.

Sincerely,

Harold A. Schaitberger
General President