

IAFF Department of Governmental Affairs

The International Association of Fire Fighters Department of Governmental Affairs is dedicated to serving the needs of IAFF members through our work on Capitol Hill. Working with Members of Congress of both political parties and from every region of the country, the IAFF pursues a proactive legislative agenda in Washington, DC, focusing on issues that directly protect the jobs, economic security and safety of IAFF members.

Current IAFF legislative priorities include:

- Establishing collective bargaining rights for fire fighters in all 50 states
- Increasing funding for the FIRE and SAFER grant programs to provide federal dollars directly to local fire departments
- Establishing a permanent health treatment program for World Trade Center responders
- Providing adequate funding for USAR teams
- Improving the FIRE and SAFER grant programs to ensure that a greater percentage of funding is granted to professional and combination fire departments
- Granting federal fire fighters presumptive disability protections
- Provide additional federal funding to States and localities to curtail public safety budget cuts and secure fire fighter jobs

The Department of Governmental Affairs has a strong track record of success. Laws that have been enacted due to IAFF efforts include:

- **Federal Funding for Fire Departments:** Billions of dollars in federal funding have been provided to fire departments through a variety of grant programs.
- **Retiree Benefits:** A \$3,000 tax deduction for health care expenses, allowing distributions of retirement funds before age 55, allowing purchasing service credits and rollovers, are among the many improvements that the IAFF has won to ensure retirement security.
- **Benefits for Families of the Fallen:** The IAFF created and repeatedly expanded the Public Safety Officers Benefit Program and secured an exemption from federal taxes for any death benefits paid to the survivors of fallen fire fighters.
- **Health and Safety:** Fire Departments are purchasing protective gear and equipment that comply with the latest health and safety standards due to IAFF efforts.

Contact Us

Information on IAFF legislative priorities can be found on the IAFF's website at: www.iaff.org/politics

To learn more about the IAFF's legislative agenda or how you can get involved, please contact the Department of Governmental Affairs at (202) 824-1581.