

Sample Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

During the 2000 Campaign, Governor Bush made the following statement; "I support increased pay and better benefits and training for our citizen soldiers." I assume that this statement includes Fire Fighters as well as police officers and military personnel, yet one of President Bush's first acts was to slash funding for the FIRE Act.

In late February, the Mr. Bush zeroed out the program in his initial budget blueprint, saying it "does not represent an appropriate responsibility of the federal government."

The FIRE Act would give local fire departments the ability to give their fire fighters the training and equipment needed to safely and effectively fight fires and provide rescue operations in their communities.

Maybe if President Bush served as a Fire Fighter for a day, then he would see that fully funding the FIRE Act DOES "represent an appropriate responsibility for the federal government," since our entire profession is based on serving the taxpayers of this country without any biases.

I have been a Fire Fighter in this community for 10 years and I can tell you that I love doing my job, but if we are not given a chance to have appropriate training, equipment and better benefits, I can guarantee you that less people will become Fire Fighters and more people will run for office not understanding the needs of citizen/community soldiers.

I urge every citizen of this community to write, call, e-mail, fax President Bush and tell him that the Fire Fighters in this community deserve better. Fire Fighters deserve the chance to have appropriate training and equipment in order to serve and protect their communities. As a nation, we would never send our soldiers overseas under-trained and ill-prepared. We should not expect anything our domestic defenders.

Sincerely,

Frank Firefighter
IAFF Member
Local #