

Resolution No. 22

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Health & Safety

Re: IAFF Medical Assistance Program

1 WHEREAS, the mission of the IAFF is to protect
2 and advocate for the health and well-being of our
3 members; and

4 WHEREAS, in 1986, the IAFF identified a need
5 to support our members’; health and well-being and
6 committed funds to enter a partnership with Johns
7 Hopkins University; and

8 WHEREAS, today’s needs of our members have
9 exceeded the abilities of our current partnership with
10 Johns Hopkins University; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2022, the IAFF launched a pilot
12 medical expert program to expand support to our
13 members with expert medical testimony drafted after
14 extensive research of available medical literature and
15 review of medical records, as well as medical and
16 legal consultations with members, their families, and
17 attorneys, leading to medical expert subject matter
18 testimony being presented during appeals,
19 subpoenas, depositions, trials and/or tribunals; and

20 WHEREAS, the pilot program is currently
21 overseen by the IAFF Chief Medical Officer, who
22 Presently serves in a triple role, also serving as
23 Assistant to the General President for the Division of
24 Health, Safety, and Medicine, as well as the IAFF’s
25 Medical Expert; and

26 WHEREAS, this six-month pilot program was

27 originally slated to run from August 2022 to
28 February 2023, but, due to the overwhelming needs
29 identified in that timeframe, was extended to October
30 2023, and then extended again through the 57th
31 Convention; and

32 WHEREAS, when court decisions are
33 successfully overturned on appeal in favor of our
34 members, their widows and/or orphans, it allows
35 them a dignified life, which eases financial worries
36 or struggles; and

37 WHEREAS, this program benefits not just
38 individual members, their widows, and/or orphans,
39 but the IAFF membership at large, given that the
40 extensive medical evidence researched and presented
41 for individual members is made available to local,
42 state, and provincial affiliates lobbying for the
43 expansion of presumptive legislation across all of the
44 U.S. and Canada; and

45 WHEREAS, the current capacity of the program
46 needs to be increased to properly meet the needs of
47 our members; and

48 WHEREAS, a reasonable and customary medical
49 expert rate is typically \$800 per hour; and

50 WHEREAS, an estimated 1,806 hours of staff
51 time has been spent on this pilot program as of the
52 end of May 2024, representing a total of \$1,444,800
53 saved for our members and their families; and

54 WHEREAS, this represents approximately only
55 one-third of the work on the current census in this
56 pilot; and

57 WHEREAS, upon the remaining two-thirds of

58 pending work being completed, the IAFF will have
59 saved an estimated \$4,334,400 as of the end of May
60 2024; therefore be it

61 RESOLVED, That per capita be increased by 12
62 cents (\$0.12) to formally establish and fund the IAFF
63 Medical Assistance Program; and be it further

64 RESOLVED, That the General President ensures
65 the proper infrastructure is in place to adequately
66 staff the program; and be it further

67 RESOLVED, That the Medical Assistance
68 Program may seek additional assistance from other
69 physicians or subject matter experts to support the
70 program; and be it further

71 RESOLVED, That the IAFF Executive Board
72 establish and enact a policy(ies) to administer the
73 Medical Assistance Program and to set parameters
74 defining the level and the extent of the services
75 provided.

Submitted by: IAFF Executive Board

Cost Estimate: **12 cents (\$0.12)**

Annual or Perpetual Designation: **Annual**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt

CONVENTION ACTION: Adopted