

## **Revised Resolution No. 31**

### **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Legislative & Political**

#### **Re: Pursue Federal Funding for Cancer Research**

1           WHEREAS, numerous medical and scientific  
2 studies have found the prevalence of cancer among  
3 members of the fire service to occur at higher rates  
4 than members of the general population; and

5           WHEREAS, the International Association for  
6 Research on Cancer (IARC), a division of the World  
7 Health Organization (WHO) has found in Volume  
8 132 of IARC Monographs on the Identification of  
9 Carcinogenic Hazards to Humans, Occupational  
10 Exposure as a Firefighter (2023), that there is  
11 sufficient evidence to declare that the occupation of  
12 firefighting is a direct cause of mesothelioma and  
13 bladder cancer and a Class 1 human carcinogen; and

14           WHEREAS, additional associations have also  
15 been observed between the occupation of  
16 firefighting and colon, prostate, and testicular cancer,  
17 as well as malignant melanoma and non-Hodgkin  
18 lymphoma; and

19           WHEREAS, cancer is the leading cause of  
20 occupational deaths among firefighters throughout  
21 the United States as the result of repeated exposure  
22 to known carcinogens and other hazards; and

23           WHEREAS, despite the volume of existing  
24 research on the causal link between firefighting and  
25 the development of cancer, additional research is  
26 needed on the biological processes resulting from

27 toxic exposures; and

28 WHEREAS, in 1997 US Senator Dianne  
29 Feinstein and other leaders passed federal  
30 legislation to create the breast cancer research stamp  
31 where a portion of revenue from the stamp would  
32 go to fund breast cancer research; and

33 WHEREAS, the breast cancer research stamp  
34 has raised millions of dollars for the National  
35 Institute of Health (NIH) and the Department of  
36 Defense (DOD) to strengthen research into breast  
37 cancer; and

38 WHEREAS, California's Legislature passed and  
39 the Governor recently signed AB 700 (Grayson,  
40 2023) establishing the California Firefighter Cancer  
41 Prevention and Research Program as well as  
42 allocated \$7 million in funding to pursue community-  
43 based participatory research into the biomarkers  
44 of exposure and effect in firefighters; and

45 WHEREAS, this research is critical to advancing  
46 the early identification of cancer risk or the early  
47 detection of developing cancer among firefighters  
48 in order to pursue timely effective treatment; and

49 WHEREAS, additional research is needed  
50 throughout the country to advance the goal of  
51 minimizing the occurrence of cancer in the fire  
52 service; therefore be it

53 RESOLVED, That the IAFF will assess and  
54 pursue a Firefighter Research Stamp where proceeds  
55 of the funding shall support research into firefighter  
56 cancer, including existing academic research into  
57 firefighter cancer; and be it further

58           RESOLVED, That the IAFF will work to identify  
59           and pursue other Congressional or agency funding  
60           for the research of cancer among firefighters, and be  
61           it further

62           RESOLVED, That the IAFF will ensure that  
63           funding is dedicated to research programs serving  
64           the needs and interests of the fire service, including  
65           but not limited to the pursuit of community-based  
66           participatory research programs; and be it further

67           RESOLVED, That all funds raised will go to the  
68           IAFF Foundation and dedicated specifically toward  
69           Firefighter Cancer Research.

Submitted by: California Professional Firefighters, A0005

Cost Estimate: **None**

Annual or Perpetual Designation: **N/A**

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Revised**

**CONVENTION ACTION: Adopted as Revised**