

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS



2026

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

BUILT TO DELIVER





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A Letter from the General President

The last two sessions of the United States Congress have been the most impactful in the IAFF's 108-year history. Our members, our retirees, and our families are better off than they were just one year ago. It was a nationwide effort.

This is not the time to rest on our laurels, but it is the time to recognize the monumental legislative achievements the IAFF has secured.

Just before Christmas, the IAFF convinced the federal government to recognize what we have long known: occupational cancer is a line-of-duty death, and it should be eligible for the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program.

The Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act – included in the National Defense Authorization Act – provides over \$461,000 in federal death and education benefits to the survivors of our fallen brothers and sisters. Before it was signed into law by President Trump, many told us it would never happen. They said it would cost too much. They said the votes were not there.

We smiled and continued the work.

Many of you – and your families – advanced the issue in meetings with elected leaders. At IAFF headquarters, it was all hands on deck. From the halls of Congress to the Oval Office, we went to work – and we refused to take no for an answer. We identified friends, boxed out opponents, and executed a plan that put us in the best position to succeed.

A win was never guaranteed. The IAFF used every asset at our disposal to see this through. We owed that to the memories of our members whose lives were cut short by occupational cancer. And we owe it to their loved ones. It is why the IAFF is here.

On the heels of last year's enactment of the Social Security Fairness Act, the IAFF's legislative success is a testament to our dogged determination, our ability to work across party lines in Congress, and our relationship with the White House.

For decades, fire fighters and other public employees had the Social Security benefits they earned stolen from them. They were actually penalized for serving their communities. This IAFF led the charge to right that wrong. And we have heard from scores of retirees, grateful they now have greater financial security and dignity in retirement.

That's what the IAFF is built to deliver for our members and their families. There is no higher calling and no higher responsibility.

And when Congress passed its appropriations bills in January, the IAFF protected long-term funding for the 9/11 World Trade Center Health Program – ensuring those who responded on our nation's darkest day have the health care they need to combat long-term illnesses.

These wins are the result of a persistent union and an engaged membership. They also required lawmakers – Republicans and Democrats alike – who took the time to hear directly from fire fighters and move these issues forward.

In the pages that follow, we outline legislation to protect a fire fighter's right to speak freely about conditions on the job, eliminate PFAS from protective gear, correct unsustainable schedules and unfair pension calculations for federal fire fighters, defend collective bargaining, and strengthen national wildfire preparedness.

These are public safety bills. The choices Congress makes in the months ahead will determine fire fighters' ability to protect communities across the United States.

Strengthening the fire service can only be done by elected leaders and first responders working together. I say that not only as General President of the IAFF, but as a Boston fire fighter who sees the consequences of these decisions firsthand.

When lawmakers listen to the fire fighters who serve their districts and work with them, the results speak for themselves. Departments are better staffed, fire fighters are better trained and equipped, and the citizens we all took an oath to protect are safer.

The IAFF will continue to lead on these issues and work with any lawmaker willing to put public safety first.

Sincerely,



Edward A. Kelly
General President



HOUSE BILL LEADS



Debbie Dingell (D-MI)



Sam Graves (R-MO)

SENATE BILL LEADS



John Curtis (R-UT)



Martin Heinrich (D-NM)

PFAS ALTERNATIVES ACT

H.R. 3184/PENDING SENATE INTRODUCTION

Fire fighters are routinely exposed to toxic chemicals and carcinogens as a direct result of their job. More than any other source, that exposure comes from firefighting protective gear – worn on every call and throughout an entire career.

PFAS chemicals have historically been added to protective gear during the manufacturing process. Exposure to PFAS has been linked to serious health outcomes, including cancer, kidney disease, Parkinson's disease, immune system disruption, and reproductive harm.

As a result of repeated exposure to carcinogens, fire fighters are far more likely to develop cancer than the average person. The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer classifies the occupation of firefighting itself as a Group 1 carcinogenic exposure, meaning there is sufficient evidence to conclude that it causes cancer. Together, these exposures leave fire fighters nearly 15% more likely to die from cancer than the general public.

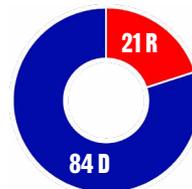
Despite advances in materials science, protective gear remains a source of carcinogenic exposure. In addition to PFAS, the current gear absorbs and holds toxins from fires and other emergency incidents. Fire fighters need gear that shields against hazards encountered on the job – not gear that adds to known cancer risks. Fire fighters also need next-generation turnout gear that is lighter weight, is more durable, allows freer range of movement, and better accounts for body composition differences among fire fighters.

The PFAS Alternatives Act would invest in independent, fire fighter-led research to develop next-generation, toxin-free protective gear while maintaining performance and durability. This work must be driven by health and safety – not corporate profit.

THIS BILL WOULD:

- Authorize a \$25 million grant within the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to drive the development of next-generation protective gear.
- This research will be focused on developing protective gear that:
 - Is free of all intentionally-added PFAS.
 - Improves resistance to carcinogens and chemicals from fires and other emergencies.
 - Implements a visual alerting system for the need to clean the gear and perform other maintenance.
 - Better accounts for varied individual fire fighters' body types and composition.
 - Creates comprehensive protection from the dangers that fire fighters face on the job.

BILL CO-SPONSOR BREAKDOWN



H.R. 3184
105 COSPONSORS

TALKING POINTS

CANCER CONTINUES TO BE THE BIGGEST THREAT FACING FIRE FIGHTERS

- Occupational cancer is the number one killer of fire fighters in the U.S.
- Repeated exposure to carcinogens – including PFAS in protective gear – drives elevated cancer rates in the fire service.
- Fire fighters are nearly 10% more likely to develop cancer and almost 15% more likely to die from cancer than the general public.
- In some cases, these exposures leave fire fighters up to 100% more likely to develop some forms of cancer, such as mesothelioma.

CURRENT PROTECTIVE GEAR FALLS SHORT

- Despite advances in materials science, protective gear has not kept pace with known health risks.
- Fire fighter protective gear is made of three layers and is designed to protect fire fighters from heat, liquids, and cuts. PFAS is used in the manufacturing of gear to repel water and other liquids.
- Even after PFAS was classified as a “hazardous chemical” in 2022, it continues to be used in gear worn daily by fire fighters.
- Protective gear also absorbs and traps carcinogens from fires and other emergency calls, increasing fire fighters’ cumulative exposure.
- While laundering reduces some contaminants, PFAS cannot be fully removed from existing gear.
- Current protective gear is incredibly bulky and cumbersome, which limits fire fighters’ range of movement and increases their chances of injury while responding to fires and other emergency incidents.

FIRE FIGHTERS MUST LEAD THE SOLUTION

- Firefighting is a unique profession, and research must reflect the realities of emergency response. Researchers who are knowledgeable about materials science may not understand the unique demands that fire fighters face.
- The chemical industry has consistently prioritized profits over fire fighter safety.
- Fire fighters must play a central role in developing next-generation gear to ensure it is safe, practical, and affordable.
- This bill ensures fire fighters have a meaningful role in shaping the future of protective equipment.

THIS BILL HAS BEEN REFERRED TO:

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,
SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

FOR IAFF MEMBERS

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FOR STAFF

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WILDFIRE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ACT

H.R. 4852/PENDING SENATE INTRODUCTION

HOUSE BILL LEADS



Josh Harder (D-CA)



David Valadao (R-CA)

Wildfires threaten communities of all sizes across the United States.

Once considered a regional challenge, wildfires are now impacting states from coast to coast, including Hawaii, California, Texas, Delaware, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. These fires are moving faster, burning hotter, and destroying more homes and businesses than ever before.

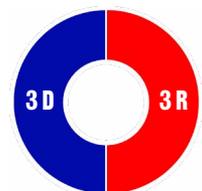
More than 400,000 state and local fire fighters respond to wildfires each year, yet many do so without formal wildland training. Limited coordination between local, state, and federal agencies further complicates response efforts and puts fire fighters at risk.

It's clear a federal standard is needed to improve training, coordination, and safety for fire fighters responding to increasingly complex wildfire emergencies.

THIS BILL WOULD:

- Authorize the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop wildfire response training for structural and urban fire fighters.
- Establish a new office in the USDA to coordinate federal, state, and local wildfire response.
- Eliminate red tape that bars federal fire fighters from assisting in wildfire response.
- Expand behavioral health support for fire fighters responding to wildfires.
- Advance research into safer protective equipment and fire retardants.
- Establish a new grant program to assist fire departments in obtaining wildfire-specific protective equipment and tools.

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H.R. 4852
6 COSPONSORS

TALKING POINTS

THE WILDFIRE THREAT IS GROWING

- Wildfire seasons are longer, more intense, and more destructive than in the past, placing greater strain on fire fighters and emergency response systems.
- Wildfires no longer just hit states like California. In recent years, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Texas have all faced major wildfire incidents.
- This growing threat requires a coordinated national approach.

CONGRESS MUST ENSURE A NATIONAL STRATEGY IS IN PLACE

- Wildfires routinely cross city, county, and state lines, often overwhelming local resources.
- Current response efforts rely heavily on ad hoc coordination among local, state, and federal agencies, with limited consistency in training, communication, and command structures.
- Fire fighters are too often left to navigate complex rules and unclear authorities while actively battling fires. This lack of coordination puts both responders and civilians at risk.
- This bill strengthens federal coordination, removes barriers that prevent federal fire fighters from assisting local agencies, and ensures resources can be deployed more quickly when wildfires escalate.

FIRE FIGHTERS NEED TRAINING THAT MATCHES TODAY'S RISK

- Structural fire fighters are increasingly deployed into wildfire and wildland-urban interface environments without standardized training tailored to those conditions.
- This legislation ensures fire fighters receive appropriate training to safely and effectively respond to wildfires, regardless of where they serve.

WILDFIRES TAKE A HEAVY TOLL ON FIRE FIGHTERS

- Responding to wildfires often requires fire fighters spending extended periods of time – sometimes weeks – away from their families and loved ones.
- Wildfires are often in rugged terrain, meaning fire fighters are forced to carry heavy equipment and hoses into undeveloped areas, all while wearing their protective equipment and experiencing dangerously high temperatures.
- The Wildfire Emergency Preparedness Act expands access to mental and behavioral health resources and peer support services for fire fighters following wildfire deployments.
- The bill also authorizes research into safer protective equipment and fire retardants to ensure fire fighters are properly protected as they respond to wildfires.

THIS BILL HAS BEEN REFERRED TO:

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

FOR IAFF MEMBERS

To urge your Member of Congress to support this bill, scan this QR code or visit IAFF.org/Advocacy-Center.



FOR STAFF

To learn more about this bill, scan the QR code or visit Congress.gov.



PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER FREE SPEECH ACT

H.R. 1443/S. 1247

HOUSE BILL LEADS



Jefferson Van Drew (R-NJ)



Steve Cohen (D-TN)

SENATE BILL LEADS



Eric Schmitt (R-MO)

Fire fighters are trusted to protect public safety in every community across the country. Yet too often, fire fighters and emergency medical workers are punished for speaking honestly about the conditions they face on the job.

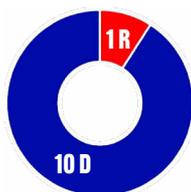
First responders routinely face unfair discipline for speaking about job-related concerns, even while off-duty. IAFF members have been fired or suspended for simple acts like making comments at city council meetings, writing letters to the editor, or being politically active. These penalties are wholly inconsistent with the First Amendment protections that all Americans enjoy.

Movies and television shows routinely portray fire fighters inaccurately, misrepresenting the work performed and the staffing, equipment, and training needed to do the job safely and effectively. These misconceptions – coupled with restrictive workplace speech rules – often lead to local governments denying departments the resources fire fighters need, putting the public, and IAFF members, at risk.

Silencing first responders weakens public safety by preventing experienced professionals from identifying problems before they result in injury or loss of life.

THIS BILL WOULD:

- Establish clear federal protections for covered public safety employees (including fire fighters, emergency medical workers, and law enforcement officers) to speak publicly about job-related issues without fear of retaliation.
- Allow fire fighters and other public safety officers to seek damages if an employer violates First Amendment rights by retaliating against protected speech.
- Protect off-duty, non-official speech related to public safety services, staffing and working conditions, PPE and response resources, administrative policies, and political opinions.
- Limit protections to speech made while off duty and in a personal, non-official capacity.



BILL CO-SPONSOR BREAKDOWN

H.R. 1443
11 COSPONSORS

S. 1247
1 COSPONSOR



TALKING POINTS

FIRST RESPONDERS ARE EXPERTS IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- When serving their communities and working on the front lines of emergencies, fire fighters and emergency medical workers face occupational dangers that few people ever experience firsthand.
- As experts in emergency response, first responders have the right – and duty – to discuss job-related concerns. Fire fighters and emergency medical workers are uniquely positioned to explain emergency preparedness needs to the public and elected officials.
- Simple investments in replacing protective gear, providing routine medical screenings, and maintaining safe staffing levels are ways that a community can provide first responders safer working conditions. Unfortunately, fire fighters and emergency medical workers often face discipline for requesting this support.

FIRE FIGHTERS ARE OFTEN SUSPENDED OR FIRED FOR THEIR SPEECH

- Countless municipalities across the U.S. have policies that prohibit fire fighters and emergency medical workers from discussing job-related issues publicly.
- Many IAFF members have been disciplined and penalized for advocating for positions on ballot referendums, submitting letters to the editor, and meeting with elected officials about staffing shortages and insufficient safety equipment.
- While first responders often challenge these penalties in the court system, they're regularly denied justice due to confusing laws surrounding when public employees can make comments and what disclosures are protected by whistleblower rules.

THIS LEGISLATION REAFFIRMS FIRST RESPONDERS' FREE SPEECH RIGHTS

- The Public Safety Officer Free Speech Act will establish clear protections to ensure all first responders retain the right to discuss job-related issues – including safety protections, staffing levels, wages and benefits, and administrative requirements.
- This legislation would allow first responders to seek damages from their employers if they are unfairly disciplined for speaking about job-related issues while off duty.
- This legislation would also provide protections to ensure that fire fighters and emergency medical workers can leverage their experience to educate community members and policymakers on issues, such as how staffing levels allow for safer and more effective responses.

CONGRESS MUST SET A NATIONAL STANDARD

- Municipalities in both red and blue states regularly disregard fire fighters' rights to free and public speech.
- Recently, President Donald Trump signed an executive order recognizing the fundamental First Amendment rights of all Americans and the need to respect that right. But executive orders can be reversed.
- Passing the Public Safety Officer Free Speech Act sends a clear message that Congress values our nation's first responders, and that all local governments must honor the constitutional rights of dedicated public servants.
- Until fire fighters are guaranteed free speech, they cannot fully advocate for their safety and the safety of those they serve.

THIS BILL HAS BEEN REFERRED TO:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

FOR IAFF MEMBERS

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FOR STAFF

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PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE COOPERATION ACT

H.R. 1505/S. 636

HOUSE BILL LEADS



Pete Stauber (R-MN)



Nikki Budzinski (D-IL)

SENATE BILL LEAD



John Hickenlooper (D-CO)

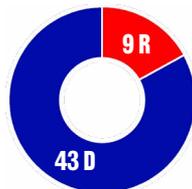
Unlike private sector employees, fire fighters have no federal protections guaranteeing them the right to collectively bargain with their employers.

Fire fighters and emergency medical workers face dangerous conditions while responding to fires, vehicle accidents, hazmat scenes, and medical emergencies. Despite being public safety experts, fire fighters in many states have no say in decisions that affect staffing levels, safety protections, wages and benefits, and working conditions. Excluding fire fighters from these decisions leaves departments less prepared and communities less safe.

Studies show that when fire fighters and emergency medical workers collaborate with employers, communities have lower death rates per fire and more effective emergency responses. As fire fighters increasingly respond across state lines for wildfires, terrorist acts, and natural disasters, the need for consistent labor protections has only grown.

THIS BILL WOULD:

- Recognize the value in employee-employer partnerships on key workplace issues.
- Authorize fire fighters to collectively bargain with their employers in all 50 states.
- Protect the rights to form a union, negotiate a written agreement, and establish a dispute resolution process.
- Give states that do not currently protect these rights two years to draft laws consistent with this framework, while retaining full authority over implementation.
- Fully respect and maintain states' right to work laws, and exempt small communities.



BILL CO-SPONSOR BREAKDOWN

H.R. 1505
53 COSPONSORS

S. 636
1 COSPONSOR



TALKING POINTS

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING STRENGTHENS PUBLIC SAFETY

- The federal government has a vested interest in improving local emergency response by supporting adequate staffing, training, and equipment.
- Beyond “routine” emergencies, preparedness for major interstate incidents – such as natural disasters and terrorist acts – relies on effective local fire and EMS agencies.
- This readiness is best supported when first responders can work directly with employers to address operational needs. Civilian fire fatality rates are on average lower in states that provide these basic rights to fire fighters and emergency medical workers.
- Collective bargaining produces measurable improvements to staffing, training, equipment, and health and safety throughout the nation’s fire departments.

THE COOPERATION ACT ENJOYS BROAD BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

- Legislation providing collective bargaining rights for fire fighters and emergency medical workers has already received broad, bipartisan support in Congress.
- In 2007, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Cooperation Act by a vote of 314 to 97 with strong majorities of both parties voting in favor.
- The Cooperation Act gives states flexibility to craft their own laws while establishing basic, nationwide protections.
- The bill prohibits fire fighters or emergency medical workers from striking, preserves states’ right-to-work laws, and protects local authority over public safety decisions.

THE COOPERATION ACT ENSURES PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS HAVE A VOICE

- Fire fighters and emergency medical workers risk their lives every day to protect the public. They deserve the same rights to discuss workplace issues with their employer that the federal government grants most other workers.
- Congress has a long history of providing collective bargaining rights to workers, including codifying labor rights for private sector workers over 80 years ago with the passage of the National Labor Relations Act.
- The freedom to assemble is a critical constitutional protection and a key function of our democracy. First responders should be able to enjoy these rights.

THE COOPERATION ACT STRENGTHENS PUBLIC SAFETY RETIREMENT AND WAGES

- Due to the dangerous nature of the profession, fire fighters are often forced to retire early. Studies show that employers and employees who engage in collective bargaining achieve fairer pension contributions and improved retirement security.
- Collective bargaining also strengthens earnings for those still on the job and ensures they receive a fair wage for their work.
- Collective bargaining leads to increased economic activity. Of the 10 states with the highest rates of disposable income, eight of them recognize public employees’ rights to collectively bargain.
- Of the 10 states with the lowest per capita income rates, nine of them ban collective bargaining for most public sector workers.

THIS BILL HAS BEEN REFERRED TO:

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS**

FOR IAFF MEMBERS

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HOUSE BILL LEADS



James Walkinshaw (D-VA)



Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)

SENATE BILL LEADS



Ruben Gallego (D-AZ)



Bernie Moreno (R-OH)

FEDERAL FIREFIGHTERS FAMILIES FIRST ACT

H.R. 759/S. 2473

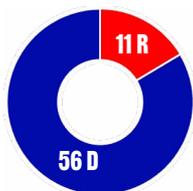
More than 10,000 civilian fire fighters protect Department of Defense (DOD) installations and other federal facilities worldwide, playing a critical role in safeguarding America's national security.

Despite the demands of the job, federal fire fighters are required to work a pre-scheduled 72-hour workweek – nearly twice the average American workweek. These members respond to emergency calls at all hours and must maintain readiness without predictable or sufficient rest. In practice, this grueling schedule forces fire fighters to either come to or return from work every 24 hours, preventing them from spending quality time with their families or tending to personal business.

This demanding schedule means fire fighters can receive an effective hourly wage of less than \$15. Even worse, federal pension rules devalue pre-scheduled overtime hours, denying full pension value for 26% (or 19 hours) of scheduled working time. Collectively, these factors increase the risk of injury and death on the job for federal fire fighters, and place an unreasonable burden on their mental health.

THIS BILL WOULD:

- Cap federal fire fighters' pre-scheduled workweeks at 60 hours. This change does not prevent fire fighters from working overtime when additional staffing is needed to protect federal facilities and maintain response readiness.
- Include the full value of overtime hours when calculating pensions.
- Improve fire fighter well-being by preventing physical injury and mental health conditions (such as PTSD) and ensuring fire fighters can be present in the lives of their family.
- Ensure fire fighters are fairly compensated for their service to the nation when they retire.



BILL CO-SPONSOR BREAKDOWN

H.R. 759
67 COSPONSORS

S. 2473
1 COSPONSOR*



* Sen. Moreno (co-lead) is counted in this chart as a cosponsor.

TALKING POINTS

UNSUSTAINABLE WORKING CONDITIONS FOR FEDERAL FIRE FIGHTERS

- Federal fire fighters work nearly twice as many hours as the average American worker.
- To maintain this schedule, federal fire fighters often work 48- and 72-hour shifts and must report to, or return from, work every 24 hours.
- Due to staffing shortages, federal fire fighters are often forced to work additional overtime shifts on top of this grueling work schedule.
- These demanding schedules often force federal fire fighters to transition to local or state fire departments which offer more sustainable schedules and stronger wages.

FATIGUE AND OVERWORK PUT SAFETY AT RISK

- When on duty, federal fire fighters respond to a wide range of 9-1-1 calls, including fires, medical emergencies, car accidents, and hazardous materials releases. Some of these responses may also occur off the federal property and within the surrounding community.
- Federal fire fighters also frequently respond to emergencies off base as part of mutual aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions. This demanding pace means fire fighters are often denied critical rest periods while on duty.
- Prolonged periods of sleep deprivation increase the risk of physical injury and mental health conditions, and also correlate with increased risks for cancer and heart attacks.

WORK-LIFE BALANCE IS CRITICAL TO MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

- Fire fighters have commitments in their personal lives, including raising children, supporting families, and maintaining relationships. A 72-hour workweek makes it extremely difficult to meet those responsibilities and remain present at home.
- Forced and unscheduled overtime compounds this strain by further reducing time available for rest, recovery, and family responsibilities.

FIRE FIGHTERS ARE BEING DENIED FAIR PENSION CALCULATIONS

- The promise of a fair pension and a dignified retirement is a significant reason fire fighters commit to long careers in public service. However, federal fire fighters are burdened with a pension system that does not accurately reflect the full scope of that service.
- Federal fire fighters earn overtime for hours worked beyond 53 hours per week – typically 19 hours of scheduled overtime every week. Yet those hours are credited toward pensions at a reduced rate, denying fire fighters the full value of thousands of hours worked over the course of a career.
- Correcting pension calculations is essential to recruiting and retaining federal fire fighters.
- This legislation would ensure federal fire fighters receive full value for their scheduled overtime hours when calculating their pension earnings.

THIS BILL HAS BEEN REFERRED TO:

**HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

FOR IAFF MEMBERS

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FOR STAFF

To learn more about this bill, scan the QR code or visit Congress.gov.





ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

In addition to the priorities highlighted in this book, the IAFF is actively working on a wide range of other legislative and regulatory initiatives to ensure fire fighters and emergency medical workers have safe working conditions, fair wages, and secure retirements. Some of these issues include:

REDUCING THE FLSA WORK PERIOD

Federal regulations currently force fire fighters to work 53 hours per week before becoming eligible for overtime pay under the Fair Labor Standards Act. This threshold was established decades ago and does not reflect the pace or complexity of modern fire service work. Fire fighters today respond to far more emergency calls, often under increasingly dangerous conditions. The IAFF is working with the Trump Administration and members of Congress to lower the FLSA threshold and improve fire fighters' work-life balance.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO CANCER SCREENINGS

Cancer is the leading cause of line-of-duty deaths among fire fighters. Occupational exposure to carcinogens leaves fire fighters far more likely to develop cancer than the general public. Despite the risk, fire fighters often face financial barriers to accessing preventative cancer screenings that could save their lives. The FIRE Cancer Act (H.R. 1610) would establish a new funding source within the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program to help departments provide cancer screenings.

SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH

The IAFF strongly supports the Helping Emergency Responders Overcome Act (HERO Act; H.R. 1902), which would expand federal funding for peer support programs and train mental health professionals to address the unique needs of fire fighters.

NO TAX ON OVERTIME FOR ALL WORKERS ACT

The IAFF supported the 'No Tax on Overtime' provision enacted last year. Under current law, this tax deduction applies only to hours worked in excess of the FLSA overtime threshold. The IAFF strongly supports H.R. 5475, which would extend this tax deduction to overtime hours earned through collective bargaining agreements, even when those hours fall below the FLSA threshold.

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IAN STUBLAREC

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Executive Secretary
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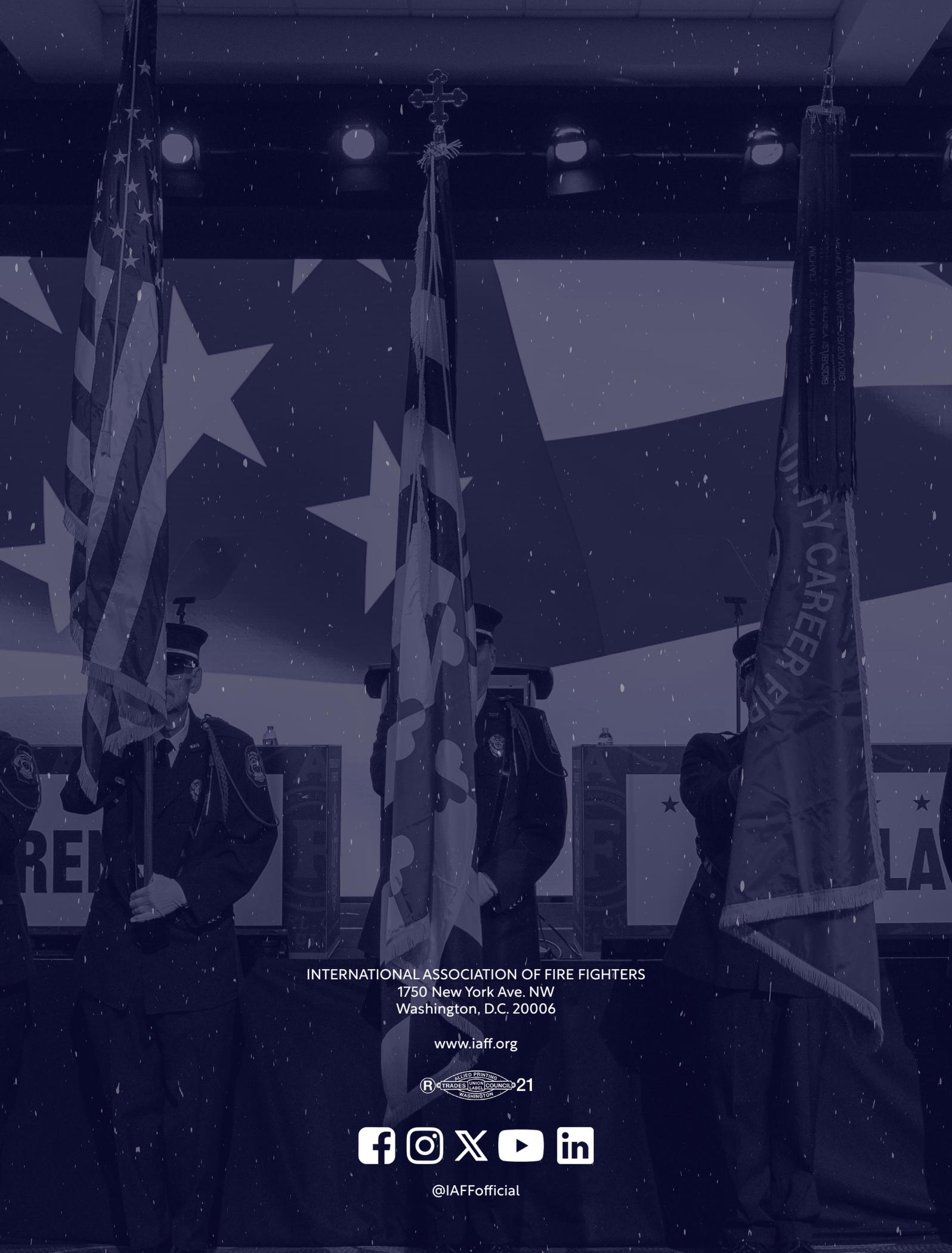
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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS
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