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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE                          Contact: Doug Stern  
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International Association of Fire Fighters Urges Congress to  
Pass Stimulus Funding for State and Local Governments  

Fire fighters call for emergency funding to keep communities safe by keeping fire  
fighters/paramedics/EMTs responding during COVID-19 pandemic.  

Washington D.C. – The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) is calling for Congress to  
pass funding for state and local governments to help counteract the budget shortfalls during the  
Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.  

“As our country begins to open back up, public safety and public confidence will be shattered if local  
governments reduce the numbers of fire fighters, paramedics and EMTs. Failure to assist local  
governments will have a catastrophic effect on, not just safety, but the economy as a whole” said  
IAFF General President Harold Schaitberger. “We’ll still need to respond to the pandemic, and other  
emergencies that dropped off while people stayed home – such as car accidents – will rise again.  
Now is the time for the federal government to come to the aid of state and local communities and  
ensure they can continue to mount a strong response against the pandemic, or the economy will take  
another hit with a loss of public confidence.”  

By prioritizing state and local governments in a new stimulus bill, Congress can keep fire fighters and  
other critical workers on the job in states, counties, cities and towns across the country. Especially  
during these uncertain times, keeping our local communities safe should be the number-one priority  
of all elected leaders.  

To further aid state and local governments, Congress should also provide more direct funding to local  
fire departments through the Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and  
Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs and waive the local cost share under the Federal  
Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Public Assistance grant program.  

“Fire fighters are responding every day in communities across the United States as calls come in to 9-1-1,” Schaitberger said. “Now is the time for Congress to help keep them on the job keeping America  
safe.”  

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