



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

NEWS RELEASE

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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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