

Medicare at 50 for Retired First Responders--Police Officers, Firefighters, EMTs

Become an Original Cosponsor: Medicare at 50 for Retired First Responders—Police Officers, Firefighters, EMTs

Endorsing organizations in the 116th: International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), National Sheriffs Association (NSA), National Troopers Coalition (NTC), International Union of Police Associations (IUPA), National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS), Professional Firefighters Association of New Jersey, New Jersey Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association, Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police

Dear Colleague,

I invite you to be an original cosponsor of the Expanding Health Care Options for Early Retirees Act, a bill to allow retired first responders – police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical services personnel – to buy into Medicare beginning at age 50.

First responders often work in dangerous conditions, and many are forced to retire earlier than other workers due to the physically and mentally demanding nature of their work. This can lead to gaps in coverage until they reach Medicare age under current law. The Expanding Health Care Options for Early Retirees Act would ensure that first responders have access to affordable, comprehensive health insurance upon retirement—regardless of whether their pension plan provides coverage for them upon retirement.

Coverage provided under this bill would be identical to the coverage provided under the existing Medicare program. And retirees would be eligible for tax credits, subsidies, and tax-advantaged contributions from their former employer or pension plan. Further, this bill specifically requires that it be implemented in such a way that it will have no negative impact on the existing Medicare program, beneficiaries, or trust fund.

First responders always come when we need them. The Expanding Health Care Options for Early Retirees Act would ensure that when they retire, they have access to quality and reliable health coverage they have earned and deserve.

For more information or to be an original cosponsor, please contact Ian Gray (ian.gray@mail.house.gov) by Thursday (6/24) at 12pm ET.

Sincerely,

Tom Malinowski

Member of Congress