

RESOLUTION NO. 51

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: LEGISLATIVE
RE: MEDICARE AT 55 FOR FIREFIGHTERS AND
OTHER FIRST RESPONDERS**

1 WHEREAS, fire fighters and other first
2 responders are engaged in professions with distinct
3 job requirements and stressors causing them a need
4 to retire at an earlier age than the general civilian
5 population that they serve; and

6 WHEREAS, fire fighters and other first
7 responders deserve quality health care after faithfully
8 serving their communities in a very dangerous and
9 demanding occupation; and

10 WHEREAS, the cost of providing health care to
11 members who are not yet eligible for Medicare
12 causes strains on our pension system and other
13 systems nationwide; and

14 WHEREAS, affordable health care is a principle
15 tenant of a dignified retirement; and

16 WHEREAS, many of the fiscal strains on police
17 and fire pension systems could be eased by making
18 our members eligible for Medicare at age 55;
19 therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the delegates assembled at the
21 54th Convention of the International Association of
22 Fire Fighters support and endorse efforts to lobby the
23 United States Congress to pass legislation mandating
24 Medicare at age 55 for eligible fire fighters and other
25 first responders.

Submitted by: Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters, A-34

Cost Estimate: None

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

CONVENTION ACTION: