

# Funding for the National Firefighter Registry

The IAFF supports funding the National Firefighter Registry at \$2.5 million for Fiscal Year 2021.

## BACKGROUND

In 2018, Congress passed, and the president signed into law, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act. This bipartisan legislation created the National Firefighter Registry within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a specialized national registry to provide researchers and epidemiologists with improved data on cancer incidence among fire fighters.

Studies have indicated a strong link between firefighting and an increased risk of several major cancers. However, certain studies examining cancer risks among fire fighters have been limited by the availability of important data and relatively small sample sizes that have an underrepresentation of certain subgroups of fire fighters, including women and minorities. As a result, public health researchers are unable to fully examine and understand the broader epidemiological cancer trends among fire fighters.

The Firefighter Cancer Registry is an important resource to better understand the link between

firefighting and cancer, potentially leading to better prevention and safety protocols. In 2019, the CDC began the process of building the registry in earnest, consulting with stakeholders – including the IAFF – on data to be collected, as well as methods to enroll fire fighters. Enrollment is expected to begin within the year 2020.

For Fiscal Year 2020, the National Firefighter Registry was fully funded at \$2.5 million. The president's budget for Fiscal Year 2021 does not contain a line item for the National Firefighter Registry, but it does specify that the CDC will continue implementation of the registry in 2021.

Fully funding the registry in Fiscal Year 2021 at \$2.5 million will ensure the CDC has adequate resources to engage in a robust public outreach effort to promote the registry and encourage participation by a large and diverse group of fire fighters.

## LEGISLATION

Funding for the National Firefighter Registry for the upcoming fiscal year will be addressed as part of the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and related agencies appropriations for Fiscal Year 2021.

The House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and related agencies will consider the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations bills in the spring of 2020.