



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS®

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General President

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March 20, 2020

Governor Larry Hogan
National Governors Association
444 N. Capitol St NW
Ste. 267
Washington, D.C. 20001

cc: Bill McBride, Executive Director

Governor Hogan:

I am writing this letter to request that the National Governors Association coordinate with its membership to create safe, sensible solutions to reopen the state-owned Pearson Vue® Testing Centers (PVTs) within colleges and universities, as a means of allowing more than 12,000 students to take emergency medical technician (EMT) and paramedic certification exams.

The International Association of Fire Fighters' members and their peers are required to successfully complete certification examinations to be eligible for state licensure. These nationally recognized certification tests are designed to assess competence in order to protect the public and ensure citizens receive quality care. However, without a mechanism to ensure competency, the nation's safety net may be weakened as a result of an insufficient supply of licensed EMS workers.

Particularly during these turbulent times, it is essential that a qualified and credentialed workforce of fire fighters and other emergency responders be maintained to support the needs of the public. As you are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic is already straining the nation's healthcare and emergency response system. Over 1,000 of our members have been quarantined, and we anticipate these numbers will rise over the next few weeks. It is imperative that students be permitted to take these certification examinations or local and national response efforts to emergencies both large and small will be insufficient to meet demand.

In closing, I implore you to reopen the state-owned PVTs for the safety and health of the nation.

Sincerely,

Harold A. Schaitberger
General President