



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 9, 2019

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House Subcommittee on Health Takes Up Bill Allowing Retired Fire Fighters Early Medicare Buy-in

WASHINGTON, DC – The House Subcommittee on Health will begin deliberating December 10 on the Expanding Health Care Options for Early Retirees Act (HR 4527), legislation to provide retired fire fighters with the health care they need by allowing them to buy into Medicare at an earlier age.

“The Expanding Health Care Options for Early Retirees Act provides an option for these public safety professionals to receive affordable health care when they retire,” said Harold Schaitberger, General President of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF). “We appreciate those working in Congress on this bill to help protect fire fighters who spent a career serving their community.”

A career in the fire service requires a high level of physical exertion and takes a serious toll on a worker’s physical abilities. As a result, many employers require fire fighters to retire early, leaving them burdened with securing expensive health insurance. Many fire fighters find themselves in this limbo for more than a decade until they reach the age of Medicare eligibility.

HR 4527 is sponsored by Representative Tom Malinowski (D-NJ) and Representative Harley Rouda (D-CA). Its Senate companion bill, S 2552, is sponsored by Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH).

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