

*A Resolution in Support of USFA's Public Education Campaign
"Fire Is Everyone's Fight"*

*Offered by
The Institution of Fire Engineers – U.S. Branch*

Whereas despite improvements in recent decades, home fires in the United States claim thousands of lives, injure tens of thousands of people, and result in billions of dollars in property loss each year; and

Whereas direct costs of these losses are huge but the indirect costs are many times higher, including temporary housing, lost business, medical expenses, psychological trauma and impact on the community; and

Whereas the public, media, and local governments generally remain unaware of the magnitude and seriousness of the fire problem and its impact on our communities and on our Nation; and

Whereas increased and more effective fire prevention efforts are a key component to solving the U.S. fire problem and are known to reduce significantly the long-term impact of fire and help in the growth and sustainability of communities; and

Whereas research demonstrates the need to focus more attention and resources on reducing the incidence of cooking fires as the number one cause of home fires in America and on ensuring that every household is protected by working smoke alarms and residential sprinklers and increased public understanding on how to prevent and escape a home fire; and

Whereas the United States Fire Administration seeks to undertake a coordinated national public education campaign around a single unifying theme: Fire is Everyone's Fight, with support from Vision 20/20, a grassroots effort to help define and implement national strategies for fire prevention practices in the U.S., and

Whereas accomplishing these objectives will take a concerted effort by fire departments, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, private sector partners and the general public; now

Therefore, it is resolved that the Congressional Fire Services Institute supports the Fire Is Everyone's Fight initiative under the leadership of the United States Fire Administration and will contribute to a unified campaign to help the public learn about the risk of fires and what they can do to protect themselves, their loved ones and their homes from a fire tragedy.