

A Resolution to Address the Disproportionate American Civilian Death Rate from Fire

Offered by:

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Whereas, the US Fire Administration has documented the location and populations most prone to suffering fatal consequences from residential fires; and

Whereas, the information provided identified ten states and the District of Columbia as accounting for 50% of US civilian fire deaths; and

Whereas, a disproportionate amount emergency responses within these communities results in loss of life among two distinct population groups; and

Whereas, more than adequate documentation is available to support the effectiveness and the increase in survivability from fire when working smoke detectors and sprinkler systems are available; and

Whereas, awareness of this reality has not made significant progress in making these remedies available to these adversely effected populations; and

Whereas, the effected populations, fire service and public safety personnel would benefit from having working smoke detectors and sprinkler systems in the residences of these communities, and;

Whereas, the needs of these communities is of tremendous concern and extremely important to the fire service professionals working in these areas to protect its citizens and property;

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Congressional Fire Services Institute call on policy makers at the federal, state, and local level, public safety organizations, and private companies to undertake the formation of a Blue Ribbon panel including the Governors and Fire Marshals of these ten states and the appropriate representatives from the District of Columbia to formulate a comprehensive solution to address the problem of death from fire by insuring the installation of hard wired detectors and sprinkler systems in all government subsidized housing and to provide at substantially reduced cost the installation of same in private residences when requested; and be it further

Resolved, that a priority be established to address with funding and support increased educational efforts in all communities in America where a disproportionate number of our citizens are shown to be at greater disadvantage from fire protection; and be it further

Resolved, that adequate funding and support is provided to these areas for increased fire education, inspections and fire prevention programs; and be it further

Resolved, that the USFA provide to Congress annual updates as the rates of death and injury to American citizens by demographics nationwide; and be it finally

Resolved, that it is unacceptable to have within the United States of America dramatically disproportionate death or injury rates due to the incidence of fire and that Congress will remain steadfastly vigilant to insure where trends and commonality exist which identify such disparities that prompt and effect action will be taken .