

## **A RESOLUTION OFFERING SUPPORT OF ADDING INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATION CODES TO THE UNIFORM BILL**

Offered by:

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation  
International Association of Fire Chiefs  
International Association of Fire Fighters  
National Volunteer Fire Council

Whereas the Firefighter Injury Research and Safety Trends (FIRST) project is a FEMA-funded research project at the Drexel University School of Public Health;

Whereas under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), the National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC) is designated by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services as a Data Standards Maintenance Organization, charged with maintaining standards in the Uniform Bill (UB);

Whereas Industry and Occupation data collected from patients are the missing link that would make hospital records useful for significant occupational health advances in preventing injury and illness;

Whereas FIRST has petitioned the NUBC to add Industry and Occupation standards to the UB. This action would ultimately empower the collection of these data. However, the decision to implement such data collection rests with, and remains with, the States;

Whereas FIRST has gathered support from several national fire and emergency services organizations;

Whereas FIRST has also received letters of support from the public health community and government agencies including: the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the American Public Health Association Injury Control and Emergency Services Section, the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, the National Safety Council, the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics, the Workers Compensation Research Institute, the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, the Michigan State University Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, the New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services Occupational Health Surveillance Program, the Florida Department of Public Health Occupational Health Surveillance Program, and the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Consumer, Environmental and Occupational Health Service;

Whereas ultimately these data will be used to help develop the architecture for a national non-fatal injury data system for the US Fire Service, and FIRST, along with the fire service and other public health researchers, will be able to use the data to accurately track work-related injuries and illnesses in order to develop new preventive measures to minimize firefighter injuries;

Whereas the provenance of the FIRST proposal was for firefighter injuries, it is recognized that the collection of these data will benefit illness and injury prevention for everyone who works;

*Therefore, it is resolved that the Congressional Fire Services Institute should support FIRST and the effort to add Industry and Occupation codes to the Uniform Bill by alerting the federal government that it has a responsibility to ensure the NUBC fulfills its obligation under HIPAA to act only as a data standards-setting entity, and diligently adhere to the DSMO process in the interest of the public's health.*