

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PROTECTING PATIENT ACCESS TO EMERGENCY MEDICATIONS ACT

Offered by:

The International Association of Fire Fighters

The International Association of Fire Chiefs

The National Volunteer Fire Council

WHEREAS, paramedics and other emergency medical personnel have long been authorized to provide controlled substances to patients in need to manage pain and improve health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, qualified emergency medical personnel traditionally operate under "standing orders" developed in accordance with state law by the medical director of each local emergency medical agency that describes in detail the dosages and conditions under which controlled substances may be administered; and

WHEREAS, the federal Drug Enforcement Administration has recently expressed the view that the Controlled Substances Act forbids paramedics from administering controlled substances except under direct orders for a physician; and

WHEREAS, communicating with a physician during every emergency medical call and for every patient risks delays, creates confusion, and compromises patient care; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives entitled the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act that would preserve the status quo, and allow paramedics to continue operating under standing orders;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Congressional Fire Services Institute endorses the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act.

Unanimously Approved on May 6, 2016