

CONGRESSIONAL  
FIRE SERVICES  
INSTITUTE

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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118TH CONGRESS  
*FIRST SESSION*



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# THE CFSI NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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The strength of CFSI is its National Advisory Committee (NAC). Composed of more than 35 trade groups, issue organizations, and professional associations—including the leading fire service organizations in the country—the NAC provides a forum where the national fire organizations conduct discussions and develop consensus on important national fire and emergency services issues.

Funding for the United States Fire Administration and the AFG/SAFER grant programs, reallocation of spectrum for first responders, addressing fire service occupational cancer, and greater involvement of first responders in disaster mitigation are examples of the types of issues the NAC has supported.

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# NAC

# MEMBERS

American Fire Sprinkler Association  
Center for Campus Fire Safety  
Center for Public Safety Excellence  
Clarion  
Common Voices  
Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's  
Association  
Fire Department Safety Officers  
Association  
Federation of Fire Chaplains  
Fire and Emergency Manufacturers &  
Services Association  
Fire Apparatus Manufacturers'  
Association  
Firehouse Magazine  
FireRescue Magazine  
FireRescue1/Fire Chief  
Institution of Fire Engineers – United  
States of America Branch  
Insurance Services Office  
International Association of Arson  
Investigators  
International Association of Fire Chiefs

International Association of Fire Fighters  
International Association of Wildland Fire  
International Code Council  
International Fire Buff Associates  
International Fire Marshals Association  
International Fire Service Training  
Association  
International Society of Fire Service  
Instructors  
Johnson Controls  
National Association of State Fire  
Marshals  
National Board on Fire Service  
Professional Qualifications  
National Fallen Firefighters Foundation  
National Fire Protection Association  
National Fire Sprinkler Association  
National Volunteer Fire Council  
North American Fire Training Directors  
Society of Fire Protection Engineers  
Underwriters Laboratories  
USA Sprinkler Fitters  
VFIS



# THE U.S. FIRE SERVICE IN NUMBERS

## COMPOSITION OF THE U.S. FIRE SERVICE

Approximately **29,452** fire departments in the US:

- **2,785 (9%)** – All career
- **2,459 (8%)** – Mostly career
- **5,335 (18%)** – Mostly volunteer
- **18,873 (64%)** – All volunteer

Approximately **1,041,200** firefighters

- **364,300** career firefighters
- **676,900** volunteer firefighters

Source: [NFPA](#). Data is from 2020, the most recent year available.

## FIRE LOSSES IN THE U.S.

An estimated **1.35 million** fires were reported in 2021.

- These fires caused **3,800** civilian deaths, **14,700** civilian injuries, and **\$15.9 billion** in direct property damage.

An estimated **486,500** structure fires were reported.

- These fires led to **3,010** civilian deaths, **12,600** civilian injuries, and **\$12.7 billion** in direct property damage.

Source: [NFPA](#). Data is from 2021, the most recent year available.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLS

**TOTAL: 36,624,000**

- Fires – **1,353,500**
- Medical Aid – **26,291,000**
- False Alarms – **2,904,500**
- Mutual Aid – **550,000**
- Hazardous Materials – **433,000**
- Other – **6,403,500**

Source: [NFPA](#). Data is from 2021, the most recent year available.

## FIREFIGHTER DEATHS

There were an estimated **79** line of duty firefighter deaths in 2022.

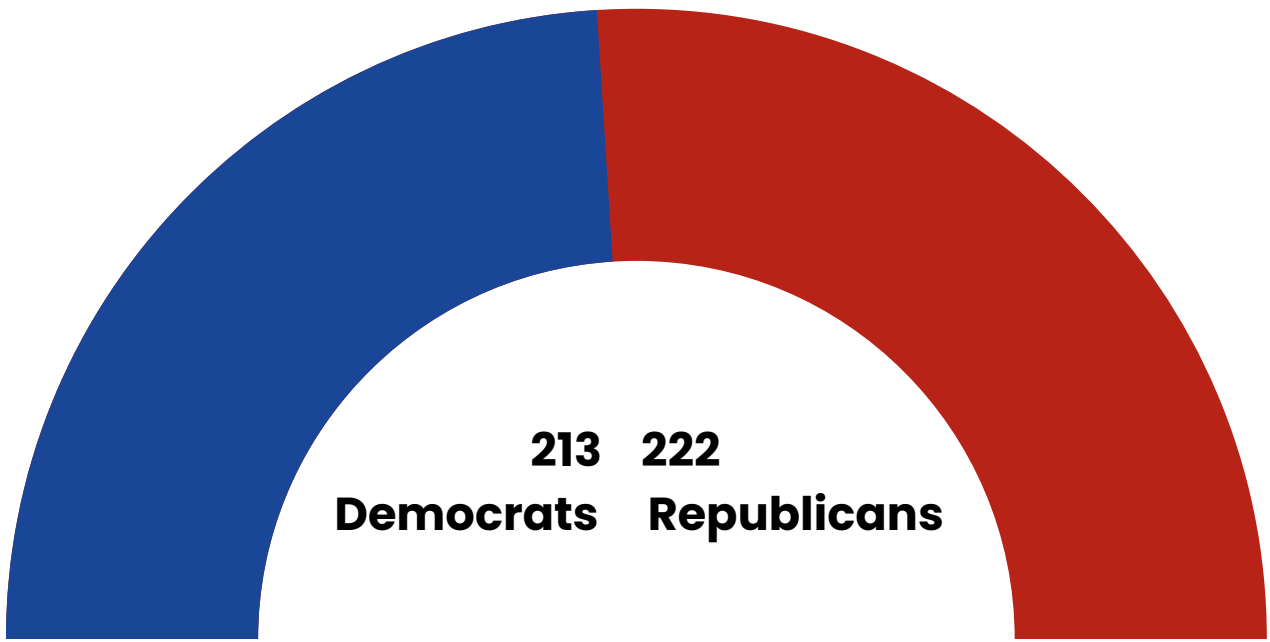
There were an estimated **60,750** firefighter injuries in 2021.

Fatality data source: [NFFF](#). Injury data source: [NFPA](#).

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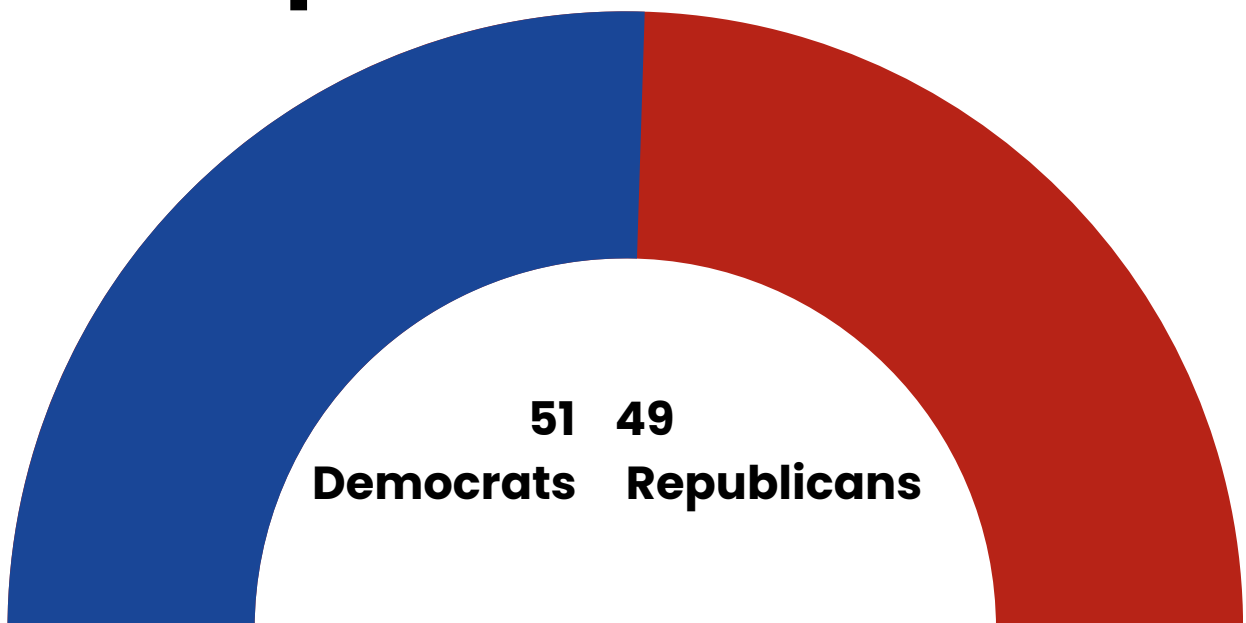
# THE 118TH CONGRESS

## Makeup of the 118th House of Representatives



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## Makeup of the 118th Senate



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# CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES CAUCUS LEADERSHIP



**Sen. Jon Tester  
(MT)**  
Chair



**Rep. Mike  
Bost  
(IL-12)**  
Co-Chair



**Sen. Tom  
Carper  
(DE)**  
Co-Chair



**Rep. Steny  
Hoyer  
(MD-05)**  
Co-Chair



**Sen. Susan  
Collins  
(ME)**  
Co-Chair



**Rep. Bill  
Pascrell  
(NJ-09)**  
Co-Chair



**Sen. Lisa  
Murkowski  
(AK)**  
Co-Chair



**Rep. Brian  
Fitzpatrick  
(PA-01)**  
Co-Chair

# CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES CAUCUS: BY THE NUMBERS



In 1987, the Congressional Fire Services Caucus was created to educate members of Congress about the needs of the fire and emergency services.

## TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

# 197

**54 House  
Republicans**

**87 House  
Democrats**

**33 Senate  
Democrats +  
3 Senate  
Independents**

**20 Senate  
Republicans**

\*numbers current as of May 19, 2023



Is your member of Congress in the Congressional Fire Services Caucus? [Click here to find out.](#)  
If they are not, [ask them to join!](#)



# JOIN THE CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES CAUCUS

## BACKGROUND

- The Fire Caucus is bipartisan and bicameral
  - The 8 co-chairs (4 in the House and 4 in the Senate) are evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans
  - Chairmanship of the caucus rotates every two years between a Democrat and a Republican
- Being a member does not require taking positions on legislation
  - The Fire Caucus is an educational forum where members can learn about initiatives that best benefit fire departments in their states and congressional districts
  - The caucus is not about ideology, but rather recognizing and supporting our nation's first responders
- Help those who have dedicated their lives to helping others
  - Our nation's first responders work to keep our communities safe every day. The Congressional Fire Services Caucus helps ensure they have the tools they need to do their jobs

## ASK

- **Join the Fire Caucus today!**

Email [mcampbell@cfsi.org](mailto:mcampbell@cfsi.org) to join.



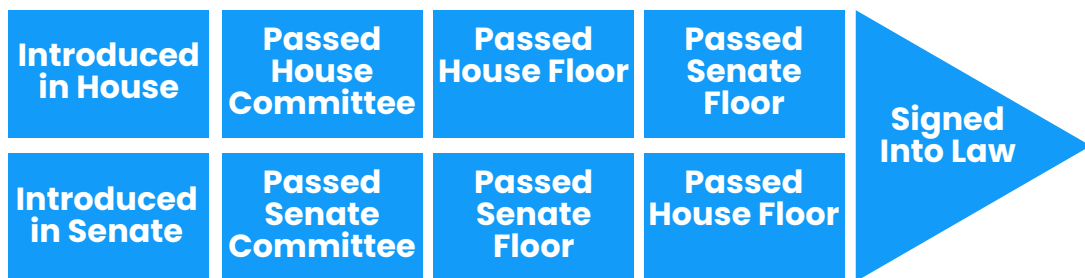
# LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

## THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

The legislative process determines how bills are introduced and the steps they must follow to become law.

In general, a bill must pass both the House and the Senate in the same form before it can be signed into law by the President.

### The Legislative Process

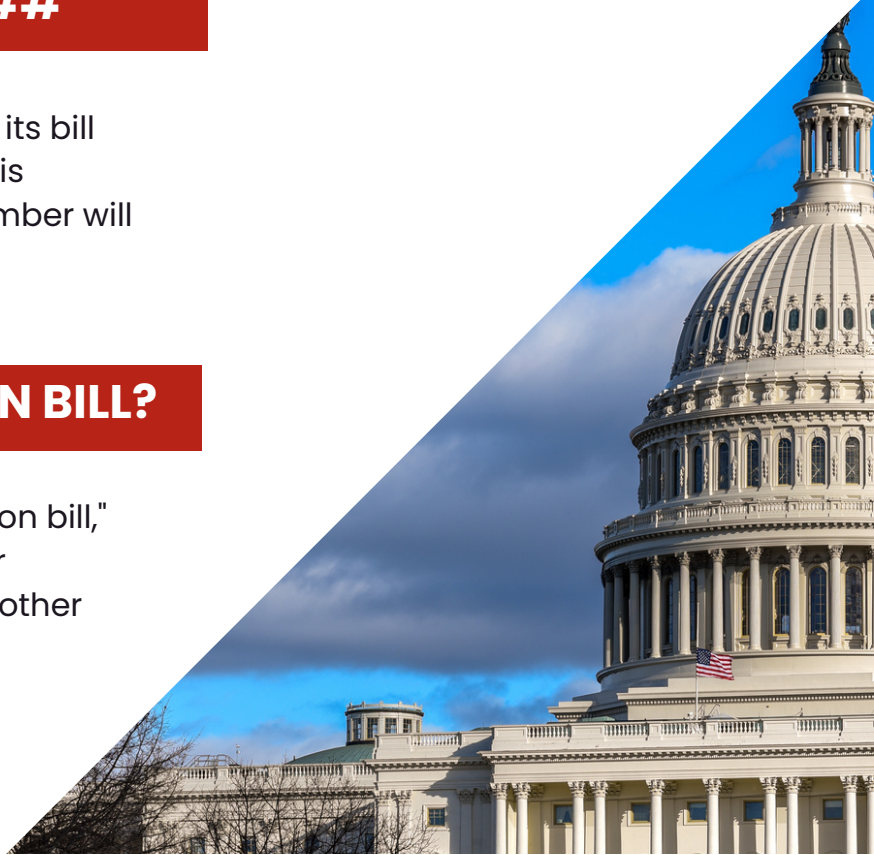


## S.##### VS. H.R. #####

If a bill is introduced in the Senate, its bill number will start with an S. If a bill is introduced in the House, its bill number will start with H.R.

## WHAT IS A COMPANION BILL?

If a bill is referred to as a "companion bill," that generally means it is similar or identical to a bill introduced in the other chamber.



# THE APPROPRIATIONS CYCLE



## FEBRUARY

The President is expected to send a budget proposal to Congress in February



## FALL/ WINTER

Congress should pass all 12 bills by Sep. 30 (end of the fiscal year), but they frequently push votes into Nov. and Dec.

## SPRING/ SUMMER

Congress holds hearings to discuss funding levels for various agencies and programs



## SUMMER/FALL

Differences between House and Senate bills are worked out

## SPRING/ SUMMER

House and Senate Appropriations Committees work to pass their bills. The full House and Senate vote on the bills

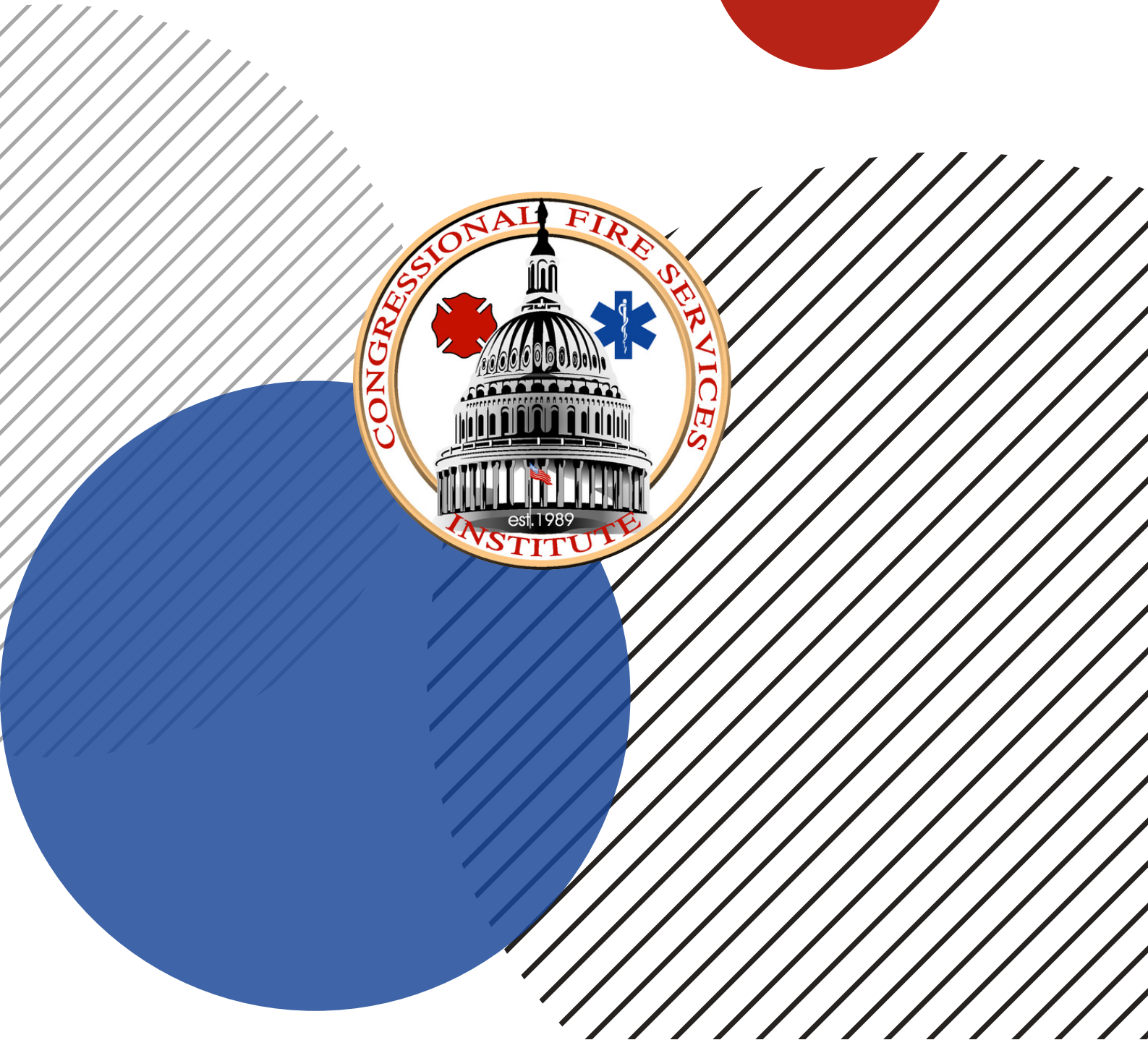
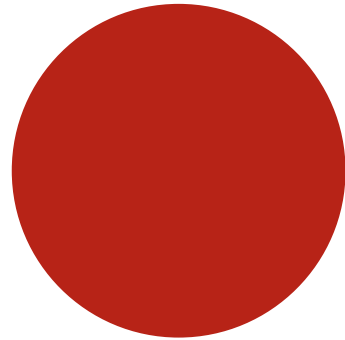


### **Terms to Know**

- **Omnibus:** passed as one package. It generally provides new funding for agencies and programs in all 12 appropriations bills.
- **Minibus:** created when some of the 12 appropriations bills are bundled together into a package. It usually contains new funding for only those appropriations bills in the package and takes no action on the other bills.
- **Continuing Resolution (CR):** a spending measure that temporarily funds federal programs at the prior year's funding level until Congress passes new funding.

# CFSI LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

118TH CONGRESS





# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## FOR THE 118TH CONGRESS

1. Reauthorizing the AFG and SAFER grant programs and the U.S. Fire Administration.
2. Increasing funding for vital fire service grant programs, as well as other federal programs and agencies that provide training, equipment, and resources in support of our nation's firefighters and emergency services personnel.
3. Authorizing and funding federal programs that help to improve firefighter mental and physical health.
4. Advocating for legislation that improves Americans' fire and life safety through research and incentivizing detection, alarm, and suppression technologies.
5. Generally, ensuring fire and emergency services personnel have what they need to do their jobs safely and effectively.

# AFG, SAFER, & USFA REAUTHORIZATION

## THE FIRE GRANTS AND SAFETY ACT

### BACKGROUND

- Fire departments are stretched thin. Per NFPA fire department call statistics, more calls for service are being recorded now than ever before.
  - In 2021, fire departments responded to more than *36.6 million* calls.
  - These calls are not just for fire, but also for medical emergencies, mutual aid, hazmat, natural disasters, search and rescue, active shooter/hostile event response, and much more.
- The needs of the fire service are great – many departments still lack basic gear and equipment. The AFG and SAFER grant programs are constantly flooded with many more applications than they can fund.
- The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) is the lead federal agency for fire data collection, public fire education, fire research, and fire service training.
- The Senate has passed S.870, which would reauthorize AFG, SAFER, and USFA and increase the authorization for USFA to \$95 million.

### TALKING POINTS

- The AFG and SAFER grant programs support vital recruitment and retention efforts, as well as training and equipping fire department personnel.
- These peer-reviewed programs require matching grants and provide federal funding directly to fire departments, meaning that departments do not have to rely on passthrough to access much-needed funds for staffing, training, and basic equipment.
- Without reauthorization, AFG and SAFER will sunset on Sep. 30, 2024, causing the programs to cease to exist.
- It is essential that USFA, the agency tasked with supporting America's fire and emergency services, is properly authorized and resourced at a time when fire and EMS personnel are facing more calls for service than ever before.

### ASK

- Congress must reauthorize AFG, SAFER, and USFA.



# HONORING OUR FALLEN HEROES ACT

H.R.1719/S.930

## BACKGROUND

- Due to the nature of their jobs, which exposes them to toxic chemicals, stress, and other extreme conditions, firefighters in the United States are at risk for a number of diseases, including various cancers.
  - In fact, in 2015 a study was released by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), which found that fire fighters are 9% more likely to develop cancer and 14% more likely to die from cancer than the general population.
- The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has named occupational exposure from firefighting as a Group 1 carcinogen.
- The Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program, run by the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, provides death and education benefits to survivors of fallen public safety officers.

## TALKING POINTS

- Firefighters are frequently exposed to toxic chemicals in the line of duty, leading them to have higher rates of cancer than the general population.
- The PSOB program currently does not include a presumption for cancer, despite the known connection between firefighting and cancer.
- It is vital that firefighters who are impacted by cancer receive proper benefits and compensation through the PSOB program.

## ASK

- Cosponsor the Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act



# THE FIRE STATION ACT

H.R.1814/S.977

## BACKGROUND

- According to the NFPA's Renovations Needs of the U.S. Fire Service report:
  - 43 percent of the surveyed fire departments are more than 40 years old
  - 59 percent of all US fire stations do not have exhaust emission control
  - 35 percent of all US fire stations do not have access to backup power
  - A sizable portion of these stations were likely built without consideration for female firefighters, who make up a growing percentage of the U.S. fire service
- The bill would authorize \$750 million in fire station construction grants administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for modifying, upgrading, and building fire and EMS department facilities, including local fire and EMS stations and fire training facilities.

## TALKING POINTS

- Thousands of fire stations across the country are outdated and don't meet current voluntary consensus standards for health and safety.
- This problem is particularly acute in smaller, rural communities, which often lack the tax base to properly invest in modern facilities for fire and EMS.
- Our nation's fire and EMS personnel deserve to work, eat, and sleep in facilities that are safe and modernized.
- The FIRE STATION Act will provide much-needed funds to help fire and EMS departments invest in necessary facilities upgrades.

## ASK

- Cosponsor the FIRE STATION Act

