

Crime – Firefighters

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Firefighters/Pascrell legislation:

The Pascrell bill would create a firefighters grant program that allows up to \$1 billion in funding to be spent for firefighter personnel, equipment and training. Like the COPS program, the bill includes a requirement to ensure that communities do not substitute Federal dollars for local dollars, so that the net effect would be an increase in spending on firefighting.

We had several concerns with this proposed legislation, not least its high price tag for functions primarily funded at the state and local level. First, the bill requires only a 10 percent match of non-Federal funds, which creates little incentive for communities to leverage their own resources. Comparable programs require a greater local match (e.g., COPS and FEMA grants require a 25 percent match). Second, the bill has rather open-ended grant criteria, making it difficult to target Federal funds to the neediest areas. Finally, by allowing grants to be spent on virtually a very wide range of expenses, the bill makes it difficult to effectively address specific problems, such as ensuring that firefighters have the equipment and training to ensure safety.

To begin to address the needs raised by the Pascrell legislation, the President's FY 2001 budget proposes a new \$25 million Firefighter Health and Safety Initiative. The \$25 million pilot grant program will assist needy communities, especially in distressed rural and urban areas, to obtain necessary health and safety equipment for their firefighting personnel. This program will help communities reduce firefighter injuries and fatalities, and improve their ability to effectively respond to fire emergencies. FEMA would administer the pilot program.

3/16 Mury - Jack speech
JDP said we'd endorse Pascrell bill

Cham -
F-125-1051205



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS®

ALFRED K. WHITEHEAD
General President

VINCENT J. BOLLON
General Secretary-Treasurer

December 23, 1999

Karen A. Tramontano
Assistant to the President
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20502

*cc: Brulle
Reed
Eric
Liu*

Dear Karen:

Following up on our conversation of yesterday, I have enclosed information about the F.I.R.E. bill. In light of the recent tragedies in Massachusetts and Iowa, we believe the time is right for the Administration to propose a significant investment in fire fighter health and safety.

The legislation authorizes FEMA, a high profile and popular agency right now, to disburse grants to local fire departments for expenditures that protect fire fighter health and safety. The bill authorizes up to \$1 billion a year, although we understand that the President will not be able to propose anything close to that figure for the current fiscal year. Just as the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (which the F.I.R.E. bill is modeled after) is authorized at \$2 billion a year but appropriated at \$523 million for FY 00, we understand that the Administration's request and the amount Congress eventually appropriates, will not match the full authorization. Nevertheless, we feel the legislation's high authorization figure is completely justified, and we have no qualms about testifying to its need.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of this important issue. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me. The IAFF office will be closed next week, but you can page me at 1-888-347-7598.

Have a wonderful holiday!

Sincerely,


Fred Nesbitt

Director of Governmental Affairs

IAFF LEGISLATIVE FACT SHEET

Revised: 3/17/99

FUNDING FOR FIRE FIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY

BACKGROUND

America's fire fighters place their lives on the line everyday protecting the safety and property of their fellow citizens. Each year, far too many of our nation's domestic defenders are seriously injured and killed. Fire fighting ranks as the nation's most dangerous profession. Yet, the federal government has never extended the same level of support to fire fighters that it has to other groups, such as police officers and teachers, who also play important roles in enhancing Americans' quality of life.

There is a tremendous need for such support. Increasingly, municipalities are unable to allocate the necessary resources to protect fire fighter health and safety. Personal protective gear and equipment goes unpurchased, dangers in fire stations and on fire apparatus go uncorrected, staffing shortages go unaddressed, and OSHA safety standards go unfilled, all because of lack of funding. This dire situation is exacerbated by the increased demands placed on the fire service in recent years, and the heightened dangers fire fighters encounter. Man-made and natural disasters, emergency medical service and the explosive growth of hazardous materials all pose new threats to our fire fighters.

To address this issue, fire service organizations and many Members of Congress advocate providing federal funds to our nation's fire departments for the purpose of protecting fire fighter health and safety.

CURRENT LEGISLATION

Representatives Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) and Curt Weldon (R-PA) introduced H.R.1168, the F.I.R.E. (Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement) Act of 1999. The legislation creates a new federal grant program, enabling the federal government to provide up to 90% of the cost of new fire department expenditures that protect the health and safety of fire fighters and the community. Grant funds can be used for the purchase of personal protective gear and equipment, wellness/fitness programs, training, additional staffing, communications equipment, monitoring equipment, and other fire department needs which enhance fire fighter safety. Not more than 25% of the funding may be awarded for the purchase of fire apparatus.

IAFF POSITION

The IAFF supports H.R.1168, the F.I.R.E. Act.

IAFF ARGUMENTS

- Fire fighter health and safety is being needlessly jeopardized by funding shortfalls in communities across America. Congress has an obligation to help protect our nation's domestic defenders:
- Congress has repeatedly invested significant funding into local government operations when there is a national interest at stake. For example, Congress authorizes in excess of \$11 billion annually for law enforcement grant programs, including a recent program to protect police officer safety through the purchase of bullet proof vests. America's fire fighters are equally deserving of such protection.
- The job of fire fighting is becoming increasingly complex and dangerous. The nationwide increase in the use of hazardous materials and the recent rise in both natural and man-made disasters pose new threats to fire fighters. Congress needs to assist local communities in their efforts to protect their fire fighters.

CURRENT STATUS

On March 17, 1999, H.R.1168 was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Science.



WASHINGTON, OFFICE:

1722 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5751
(202) 225-5782 FAX

PATERSON OFFICE:

ROBERT A. ROE FEDERAL BUILDING
200 FEDERAL PLAZA, SUITE 500
PATERSON, NJ 07506
(973) 523-5152
(973) 523-0637 FAX

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

FIRE Bill
Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement Act
Summary of the Legislation
Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Background

- The bill creates a federal grant program for local fire departments.
- The FIRE Bill is modeled after the successful COPS program which has drastically improved our nation's community policing efforts.

What the FIRE Bill Does

- The legislation authorizes FEMA to create an office to administer this grant program and establish specific criteria for the program.
- The grants will be used for purposes such as hiring more firefighters, training, equipment and education programs.
- The funds from the grants will be sent directly to the local fire departments.
- The grants will be made based on a competitive process that assesses need on the part of the applicant. The Administrator will have discretion in the establishment of the grant programs, their requirements, and funding levels.
- The fire departments will have a matching fund requirement of 10% to ensure that they demonstrate a commitment to their application.

Why We Need this Bill

- Fire Departments are our nation's first responders, yet the federal shows no commitment to the fire services.
- For fiscal year 1999, the federal government will spend approximately \$32 million on fire prevention and training. **Comparatively, the federal government will spend over \$11 billion on law enforcement!**
- The U.S. has one of the highest rates of death from fires in the industrialized world.
- In 1997 alone, over 4,000 Americans died and almost 24,000 were injured in fires.
- About 100 firefighters are killed each year in duty-related incidents.
- Each year, fire kills more Americans than all natural disasters combined.
- About 2 million fires are reported each year.
- Direct property loss due to fires is estimated at \$8.5 billion annually.
- As part of Nunn-Lugar, a \$23 billion terrorism training program was created. Only the 27 largest cities see any of that money.



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS®

ALFRED K. WHITEHEAD
General President

VINCENT J. BOLLON
General Secretary-Treasurer

December 22, 1999

Mr. Charles Burson
Chief of Staff
Office of Vice President Gore
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Charles:

Thank you for meeting with me yesterday regarding the FIRE bill to give grants to fire departments to improve fire fighter health and safety, as well as several other issues I raised. I appreciate your time and look forward to hearing back from you regarding these important issues for the IAFF.

With regard to Vice President Gore's policy statement on pensions, I think he should have included two provisions relating to public sector pension plans. One would be that any changes made to improve private sector plans would insure parity for public sector pension plans. Second, support legislation by Cong. Cardin providing greater portability for public sector pension plans. The portability provisions were included in the tax bill, have bipartisan support, and are supported by all the public sector unions, organizations and pension plan trustees and administrators. If you would like more details on these, I would be more than happy to supply them to you. I do think it's a glaring oversight that the Vice President's proposals for improving pensions are silent on public sector pension plans.

Sincerely,


Frederick H. Nesbitt
Director, Governmental Affairs

FHN:jh

opeiu#2

*As you may know, we lost
3 IAFF fire fighters this morning
in Keokuk, IA, when a floor
collapsed killing them and 3
children.*

H.R.1168 COSPONSOR REPORT
208 Cosponsors (153 Democrats / 55 Republicans)

PASCRELL (D-NJ)

WELDON, CURT (R-PA)

ABERCROMBIE (D-HI)
ACKERMAN (D-NY)
ALLEN (D-ME)
ANDREWS (D-NJ)
BAIRD (D-WA)
BALDACCI (D-ME)
BARCIA (D-MI)
BENTSEN (D-TX)
BERKLEY (D-NV)
BERRY (D-AR)
BILBRAY (R-CA)
BISHOP (D-GA)
BLAGOJEVICH (D-IL)
BLUMENAUER (D-OR)
BOEHLERT (R-NY)
BONIOR (D-MI)
BORSKI (D-PA)
BOSWELL (D-IA)
BOUCHER (D-VA)
BRADY, ROBERT (D-PA)
BROWN, CORRINE (D-FL)
BROWN, SHERROD (D-OH)
BURR (R-NC)
CALLAHAN (R-AL)
CAMP (R-MI)
CAPPS (D-CA)
CAPUANO (D-MA)
CARDIN (D-MD)
CARSON (D-IN)
CLAYTON (D-NC)
CLEMENT (D-TN)
CLYBURN (D-SC)
COBLE (R-NC)
CONDIT (D-CA)
COOK, M. (R-UT)
COSTELLO (D-IL)
COYNE (D-PA)
CRAMER (D-AL)
CROWLEY (D-NY)
CUMMINGS (D-MD)
DANNER (D-MO)
DAVIS (D-IL)
DEAL (R-GA)
DEFAZIO (D-OR)
DELAHUNT (D-MA)
DELAURO (D-CT)

DEUTSCH (D-FL)
DIAZ-BALART (R-FL)
DICKS (D-WA)
DOYLE (D-PA)
DUNCAN, JR. (R-TN)
EHLERS (R-MI)
EHRlich (R-MD)
EMERSON (R-MO)
ENGEL (D-NY)
ENGLISH (R-PA)
ETHERIDGE (D-NC)
EVANS (D-IL)
FARR (D-CA)
FATTAH (D-PA)
FILNER (D-CA)
FORBES (R-NY)
FORD (D-TN)
FOSSELLA (R-NY)
FRANK, BARNEY (D-MA)
FRELINGHUYSEN (R-NJ)
FROST (D-TX)
GALLEGLY (R-CA)
GEJDENSON (D-CT)
GEKAS (R-PA)
GIBBONS (R-NV)
GILCHREST (R-MD)
GILMAN (R-NY)
GONZALEZ (D-TX)
GOODE (D-VA)
GORDON (D-TN)
GREEN, GENE (D-TX)
GREENWOOD (R-PA)
GUITERREZ (D-IL)
HALL (D-OH)
HASTINGS, ALCEE (D-FL)
HILLEARY (R-TN)
HINCHEY (D-NY)
HOEFFEL (D-PA)
HOLDEN (D-PA)
HOLT (D-NJ)
HOOLEY (D-OR)
HOYER (D-MD)
JACKSON (D-IL)
JACKSON-LEE (D-TX)
JEFFERSON (D-LA)
JOHN (D-LA)

JOHNSON, EDDIE (D-TX)
JOHNSON, NANCY (R-CT)
KANJORSKI (D-PA)
KAPTUR (D-OH)
KELLY (R-NY)
KENNEDY, PATRICK (D-RI)
KILDEE (D-MI)
KILPATRICK (D-MI)
KIND (D-WI)
KING (R-NY)
KLINK (D-PA)
KUCINICH (D-OH)
LAFALCE (D-NY)
LAMPSON (D-TX)
LARSON (D-CT)
LATOURETTE (R-OH)
LEE (D-CA)
LEVIN (D-MI)
LEWIS, JOHN (D-GA)
LOBIONDO (R-NJ)
LOFGREN (D-CA)
LOWEY (D-NY)
LUCAS (D-KY)
MALONEY, JAMES (D-CT)
MARKEY (D-MA)
MASCARA (D-PA)
MATSUI (D-CA)
MCCARTHY, CAROLYN (D-NY)
MCCARTHY, KAREN (D-MO)
MCDERMOTT (D-WA)
MCGOVERN (D-MA)
MCHUGH (R-NY)
MCINNIS (R-CO)
MCKINNEY (D-GA)
MCNULTY (D-NY)
MEEHAN (D-MA)
MEEK, CARRIE (D-FL)
MENENDEZ (D-NJ)
METCALF (R-WA)
MILLER, GEORGE (D-CA)
MINK (D-HI)
MOAKLEY (D-MA)
MORELLA (R-MD)
MURTHA (D-PA)
NAPOLITANO (D-CA)
NEAL (D-MA)

NEY (R-OH)
NUSSLE (R -IA)
OBERSTAR (D-MN)
OLVER (D-MA)
ORTIZ (D-TX)
OWENS (D-NY)
PALLONE (D-NJ)
PASTOR (D-AZ)
PAYNE (D-NJ)
PELOSI (D-CA)
PETERSON (R-PA)
PHELPS (D-IL)
PICKETT (D-VA)
PRICE, DAVID (D-NC)
QUINN (R-NY)
RADANOVICH (R-CA)
RAHALL (D-WV)
RAMSTAD (R-MN)
RANGEL (D-NY)
REYES (D-TX)
RIVERS (D-MI)
ROEMER (D-IN)
ROGAN (R-CA)

ROGERS (R-KY)
ROTHMAN (D-NJ)
ROUKEMA (R-NJ)
RUSH (D-IL)
SANCHEZ (D-CA)
SAXTON (R-NJ)
SCHAKOWSKY (D-IL)
SHERWOOD (R-PA)
SHIMKUS (R-IL)
SHOWS (D-MS)
SISISKY (D-VA)
SKELTON (D-MO)
SLAUGHTER, L. (D-NY)
SMITH, CHRIS (R-NJ)
SPENCE (R-SC)
STABENOW (D-MI)
STRICKLAND (D-OH)
STUPAK (D-MI)
SWEENEY (R-NY)
TAUSCHER (D-CA)
TAUZIN (R-LA)
TAYLOR, CHARLES (R-NC)
TAYLOR, GENE (D-MS)

TERRY (R-NE)
THOMPSON, MIKE (D-CA)
THURMAN (D-FL)
TIERNEY (D-MA)
TRAFICANT (D-OH)
TURNER (D-TX)
UDALL, M. (D-CO)
UDALL, T. (D-NM)
UNDERWOOD (D-GU)
UPTON (R-MI)
VISCLOSKEY (D-IN)
WALSH (R-NY)
WEINER (D-NY)
WELLER (R-IL)
WEXLER (D-FL)
WEYGAND (D-RI)
WHITFIELD (R-KY)
WISE (D-WV)
WOOLSEY (D-CA)
WU (D-OR)
WYNN (D-MD)
YOUNG, DON (R-AK)

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1168

To authorize the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to make grants to fire departments for the purpose of protecting the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 1999

Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. HOYER, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BALDACCI, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BURR of North Carolina, Mr. COYNE, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. EHRLICH, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. FORBES, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HOLT, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KLINK, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LARSON, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MASCARA, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. METCALF, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEY, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PICKETT, Mr. QUINN, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. REYES, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. TERRY, Mr. UPTON, Mr. WEYGAND, Mr. WISE, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. FROST, Mrs. MORELLA, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. FORD, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Ms. MCKINNEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To authorize the Director of the Federal Emergency Manage-

ment Agency to make grants to fire departments for the purpose of protecting the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Firefighter Investment
5 and Response Enhancement (FIRE) Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Increased demands on firefighting personnel
9 have made it difficult for local governments to ade-
10 quately fund necessary fire safety precautions.

11 (2) The Federal government has an obligation
12 to protect the health and safety of the firefighting
13 personnel of the United States and to ensure that
14 they have the financial resources to protect the pub-
15 lic.

16 (3) The high rates in the United States of
17 death, injury, and property damage caused by fires
18 demonstrates a critical need for Federal investment
19 in support of firefighting personnel.

20 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM.**

21 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—In accordance with this Act, the
22 Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency
23 (in this Act referred to as the “Director”) may make

1 grants on a competitive basis to fire departments for the
2 purpose of protecting the health and safety of the public
3 and firefighting personnel against fire and fire-related
4 hazards.

5 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATION OF GRANTS.—Before making grants under sub-
6 section (a), the Director shall establish an office in the
7 Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish spe-
8 cific criteria for the selection of grant recipients and to
9 administer the grants.
10

11 (c) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—The Director may make
12 a grant under subsection (a) only if the applicant for the
13 grant agrees to use grant funds for any of the following:

14 (1) To hire additional firefighting personnel.

15 (2) To train firefighting personnel in fire-
16 fighting, emergency response, arson prevention and
17 detection, or the handling of hazardous materials, or
18 to train such personnel to provide any of the train-
19 ing described in this paragraph.

20 (3) To fund the creation of rapid intervention
21 teams to protect firefighting personnel at the scenes
22 of fires and other emergencies.

23 (4) To certify fire inspectors.

1 (5) To establish wellness and fitness programs
2 for firefighting personnel to ensure that such per-
3 sonnel can carry out their duties.

4 (6) To fund emergency medical services pro-
5 vided by fire departments.

6 (7) To acquire additional firefighting vehicles,
7 including fire trucks.

8 (8) To acquire additional firefighting equip-
9 ment, including equipment for communications and
10 monitoring.

11 (9) To acquire personal protective equipment
12 required for firefighting personnel by the Occupa-
13 tional Safety and Health Administration, and other
14 personal protective equipment for firefighting per-
15 sonnel.

16 (10) To modify fire stations, fire training facili-
17 ties, and other facilities to protect the health and
- 18 safety of firefighting personnel.

19 (11) To enforce fire codes.

20 (12) To fund fire prevention programs.

21 (13) To educate the public about arson preven-
22 tion and detection.

23 (d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Director may
24 make a grant under subsection (a) only if the applicant
25 for the grant agrees to match with non-Federal funds 10

1 percent of the funds received under subsection (a) in any
2 fiscal year.

3 (e) MAINTENANCE OF EXPENDITURES.—The Direc-
4 tor may make a grant under subsection (a) only if the
5 applicant for the grant agrees to maintain for the fiscal
6 year in which the grant will be received its aggregate ex-
7 penditures for uses described in subsection (c) at or above
8 the average level of such expenditures in the 2 fiscal years
9 preceding the fiscal year in which the grant will be re-
10 ceived.

11 (f) REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR.—The Director may
12 make a grant under subsection (a) only if the applicant
13 for the grant agrees to submit to the Director a report,
14 including a description of how grant funds were used, with
15 respect to each fiscal year for which a grant was received.

16 (g) VARIETY OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—The Director
17 shall ensure that grants under subsection (a) for a fiscal
18 year are made to a variety of fire departments, including,
19 to the extent that there are eligible applicants—

20 (1) paid, volunteer, and combination fire de-
21 partments;

22 (2) fire departments located in communities of
23 varying size; and

24 (3) fire departments located in urban, subur-
25 ban, and rural communities.

1 (h) LIMITATION ON FIREFIGHTING VEHICLES.—The
2 Director shall ensure that not more than 25 percent of
3 the assistance made available under subsection (a) in a
4 fiscal year is used for purposes authorized under section
5 (e)(7).

6 (i) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Of
7 amounts made available under section 4 for a fiscal year,
8 the Director may use not more than 10 percent for the
9 administrative costs of carrying out this Act.

10 (j) APPLICATION.—The Director may make a grant
11 under subsection (a) only if the fire department seeking
12 the grant submits to the Director an application in such
13 form and containing such information as the Director may
14 require.

15 (k) FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL DEFINED.—In this
16 Act the term “firefighting personnel” means individuals,
17 including volunteers, who are firefighters, officers of fire
18 departments, or emergency medical service personnel of
19 fire departments.

20 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 For the purposes of carrying out this Act, there is
22 authorized to be appropriated to the Director
23 \$1,000,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2000 through
24 2005.

○

1 tures in the 2 fiscal years preceding the fiscal year
2 for which the assistance will be received.

3 “(8) REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR.—The Direc-
4 tor may provide assistance under this subsection
5 only if the applicant for the assistance agrees to sub-
6 mit to the Director a report, including a description
7 of how the assistance was used, with respect to each
8 fiscal year for which the assistance was received.

9 “(9) VARIETY OF FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT
10 RECIPIENTS.—The Director shall ensure that grants
11 under paragraph (1)(A) for a fiscal year are made
12 to a variety of fire departments, including, to the ex-
13 tent that there are eligible applicants—

14 “(A) paid, volunteer, and combination fire
15 departments;

16 “(B) fire departments located in commu-
17 nities of varying sizes; and

18 “(C) fire departments located in urban,
19 suburban, and rural communities.

20 “(10) LIMITATION ON EXPENDITURES FOR
21 FIREFIGHTING VEHICLES.—The Director shall en-
22 sure that not more than 25 percent of the assistance
23 made available under this subsection for a fiscal
24 year is used for the use described in paragraph
25 (3)(G).

1 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
3 appropriated to the Director \$1,000,000,000 for
4 each of fiscal years 2000 through 2005.

5 “(2) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—

6 Of the amounts made available under paragraph (1)
7 for a fiscal year, the Director may use not more
8 than 10 percent for the administrative costs of car-
9 rying out this section.”.

○

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1941

To amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide assistance to fire departments and fire prevention organizations for the purpose of protecting the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 17, 1999

Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. DEWINE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide assistance to fire departments and fire prevention organizations for the purpose of protecting the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Firefighter Investment
5 and Response Enhancement (FIRE) Act".

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) increased demands on firefighting personnel
4 have made it difficult for local governments to ade-
5 quately fund necessary fire safety precautions;

6 (2) the Federal Government has an obligation
7 to protect the health and safety of the firefighting
8 personnel of the United States and to ensure that
9 the personnel have the financial resources to protect
10 the public; and

11 (3) the high rates in the United States of
12 death, injury, and property damage caused by fires
13 demonstrates a critical need for Federal investment
14 in support of firefighting personnel.

15 **SEC. 3. FIREFIGHTER INVESTMENT AND RESPONSE EN-**
16 **HANCEMENT.**

17 The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
18 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
19 the following:

20 **“SEC. 33. FIREFIGHTER INVESTMENT AND RESPONSE EN-**
21 **HANCEMENT.**

22 **“(a) DEFINITION OF FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL.—**
23 In this section, the term ‘firefighting personnel’ means in-
24 dividuals, including volunteers, who are firefighters, offi-
25 cers of fire departments, or emergency medical service per-
26 sonnel of fire departments.

1 “(b) ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

2 “(1) AUTHORITY.—In accordance with this sec-
3 tion, the Director may—

4 “(A) make grants on a competitive basis to
5 fire departments for the purpose of protecting
6 the health and safety of the public and fire-
7 fighting personnel against fire and fire-related
8 hazards; and

9 “(B) provide assistance for fire prevention
10 programs in accordance with paragraph (4).

11 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE FOR ADMIN-
12 ISTRATION OF ASSISTANCE.—Before providing as-
13 sistance under paragraph (1), the Director shall es-
14 tablish an office in the Federal Emergency Manage-
15 ment Agency that shall have the duties of estab-
16 lishing specific criteria for the selection of recipients
17 of the assistance, and administering the assistance,
18 under this section.

19 “(3) USE OF FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT
20 FUNDS.—The Director may make a grant under
21 paragraph (1)(A) only if the applicant for the grant
22 agrees to use the grant funds—

23 “(A) to hire additional firefighting per-
24 sonnel;

1 “(B) to train firefighting personnel in fire-
2 fighting, emergency response, arson prevention
3 and detection, or the handling of hazardous ma-
4 terials, or to train firefighting personnel to pro-
5 vide any of the training described in this sub-
6 paragraph;

7 “(C) to fund the creation of rapid interven-
8 tion teams to protect firefighting personnel at
9 the scenes of fires and other emergencies;

10 “(D) to certify fire inspectors;

11 “(E) to establish wellness and fitness pro-
12 grams for firefighting personnel to ensure that
13 the firefighting personnel can carry out their
14 duties;

15 “(F) to fund emergency medical services
16 provided by fire departments;

17 “(G) to acquire additional firefighting vehi-
18 cles, including fire trucks;

19 “(H) to acquire additional firefighting
20 equipment, including equipment for communica-
21 tions and monitoring;

22 “(I) to acquire personal protective equip-
23 ment required for firefighting personnel by the
24 Occupational Safety and Health Administra-

1 tion, and other personal protective equipment
2 for firefighting personnel;

3 “(J) to modify fire stations, fire training
4 facilities, and other facilities to protect the
5 health and safety of firefighting personnel;

6 “(K) to enforce fire codes;

7 “(L) to fund fire prevention programs; or

8 “(M) to educate the public about arson
9 prevention and detection.

10 “(4) FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAMS.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year,
12 the Director shall use not less than 10 percent
13 of the funds made available under subsection
14 (c)—

15 “(i) to make grants to fire depart-
16 ments for the purpose described in para-
17 graph (3)(L); and

18 “(ii) to make grants to, or enter into
19 contracts or cooperative agreements with,
20 national, State, local, or community orga-
21 nizations that are recognized for their ex-
22 perience and expertise with respect to fire
23 prevention or fire safety programs and ac-
24 tivities, for the purpose of carrying out fire
25 prevention programs.

1 “(B) PRIORITY.—In selecting organiza-
2 tions described in subparagraph (A)(ii) to re-
3 ceive assistance under this paragraph, the Di-
4 rector shall give priority to organizations that
5 focus on prevention of injuries to children from
6 fire.

7 “(5) APPLICATION.—The Director may provide
8 assistance to a fire department or organization
9 under this subsection only if the fire department or
10 organization seeking the assistance submits to the
11 Director an application in such form and containing
12 such information as the Director may require.

13 “(6) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Director
14 may provide assistance under this subsection only if
15 the applicant for the assistance agrees to match with
16 an equal amount of non-Federal funds 10 percent of
17 the assistance received under this subsection for any
18 fiscal year.

19 “(7) MAINTENANCE OF EXPENDITURES—The
20 Director may provide assistance under this sub-
21 section only if the applicant for the assistance agrees
22 to maintain in the fiscal year for which the assist-
23 ance will be received the applicant’s aggregate ex-
24 penditures for the uses described in paragraph (3)
25 or (4) at or above the average level of such expendi-

Sylvia M. Mathews
01/09/2000 01:21:42 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Karen Tramontano/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: Michael Deich/OMB/EOP@EOP, Jacob J. Lew/OMB/EOP@EOP
bcc:
Subject: Re. firefighters

It responds in the sense that we have put money in for firefighter safety in this budget, which is one of the concerns they articulate in their policy. I think that they would want more money and would want a fund firefighters directly (not just help with their safety). I don't know the requesters' desires well enough to know if they would say "great we want more" or "don't even talk to us with that amount." Michael, do you have anything else to add? Karen, do you have a sense if Pascrell or the firefighters would be pleased or not? We need to try to bring this to closure on Monday. Let's catch up Monday a.m. and figure out how we can figure out if they would be pleased but not satisfied with where we are if we don't know.
Karen Tramontano

Karen Tramontano

01/08/2000

01:25:03 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Sylvia M. Mathews/OMB/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: firefighters

sylvia --

a got a copy of the one-page budget sheet you gave me re: firefighters -- does this respond to the Pascrell legislation??? If so, is there something we can do w/ this?