

Center for Campus Fire Safety / Congressional Fire Services Institute / Common Voices / Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association / Fire Department Safety Officers Association / Fire and Emergency Manufacturers & Services Association / Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association / Firehouse Magazine / Institution of Fire Engineers – United States of America Branch / 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 Fallen Firefighters Foundation / National Fire Protection Association / National Fire Service Professional Qualifications Board / National Fire Sprinkler Association / National Volunteer Fire Council / North American Fire Training Directors / Society of Fire Protection Engineers / SFPE Foundation / USA Sprinkler Fitters

March 28, 2023

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

**The undersigned national fire and emergency services organizations write today to express the importance of passing the Fire Grants and Safety Act (S. 870) without amendment to ensure its expeditious passage through Congress.** This bill reauthorizes funding for vital fire and emergency services grant programs, as well as the U.S. Fire Administration.

Demand for fire and emergency services response has continued to grow as the fire service must respond to over 36 million emergency calls annually, including more frequent and deadly natural disasters; increasing fire risks posed by new technologies; continuing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic; and much more—all in addition to preexisting response requirements. In addition to the demand for services, costs for equipment, apparatus, training, and staffing have continued to rise. We must ensure that our fire and EMS personnel have the resources they need to keep themselves and their communities safe.

All across the country, local fire departments of all types and sizes do not have enough staff, training, personal protective clothing, breathing apparatus, and other equipment. The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) and the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) programs help ensure fire and emergency services personnel across the country are properly trained, staffed, and equipped to protect their communities. These programs improve response capabilities across all emergency response areas—from fires to medical aid and hazardous materials response. AFG and SAFER are a lifeline to departments of all types—career, combination, and volunteer. It is imperative that Congress act to reauthorize these programs before their September 30, 2024, deadline.

The U.S. Fire Administration is the primary representative of the fire and emergency services in the federal government and ensures that the fire service is prepared to respond to all hazards. USFA is the lead federal agency for fire data collection, public safety education, fire research, and fire service training. At a time when fire and EMS personnel are responding to increasing

numbers of natural disasters like hurricanes, tornadoes, and wildfires; more medical emergency calls than ever before; the evolving challenge of responding on the front lines of a global pandemic; the continued scourge of structural fires, including home fires; increasing numbers of calls for hazardous materials response; and much more, it is essential that the agency tasked with supporting America's fire and emergency services is properly resourced.

**Please support clean passage of S.870 to ensure the bill can move forward expeditiously.**

Sincerely,

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Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association  
Firehouse Magazine  
Institution of Fire Engineers – United States of America Branch  
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 Fallen Firefighters Foundation  
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