



# Firefighter Talking Points



## Who we are

- We work hard to protect lives and property at military bases, VA hospitals, and other federal installations across the country.
- Federal firefighters are career civil servants performing a vital but dangerous job
- Many of us are military veterans, and we are proud to serve and protect our country as public servants and union members
- Our union, the American Federation of Government Employees, urges members of Congress to support legislation that supports federal firefighters on and off the job

## Bills we support

- We support HR 3733, the Federal Firefighter Pay Equity Act, introduced by Rep. Gerry Connolly of Virginia District 11 . This bill would ensure all of the hours worked by federal fighters are counted toward retirement, including mandatory overtime hours.
- We support the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act, introduced by Rep. Chris Collins of New York District 27 (HR 931) and Sen. Robert Menendez of New Jersey (S 382). These bills would direct the federal government to create a national registry for collecting data on cancer incidence among firefighters.
- We support HR 1884, the Federal Firefighters Fairness Act, introduced by Rep. Salud Carbajal of California District 24. This bill would ensure that federal firefighters who contract or die from certain diseases associated with firefighting are presumed to have fallen ill as a result of their employment.

## Bills we oppose

- We oppose any federal budget proposal to cut retirement benefits for firefighters and federal law enforcement officers by eliminating supplemental FERS annuity payments. These payments help firefighters and law enforcement officers who must retire years before they start receiving Social Security.
- We oppose any federal budget proposal to slash wages for firefighters and all other federal employees by increasing current workers' out-of-pocket payments toward their pensions.
- We oppose any federal budget proposal to slash federal retirement benefits by basing pensions on the highest five years of salary, instead of the highest three years.
- We oppose any federal budget proposal to eliminate annual cost-of-living adjustments for all FERS annuities forever, and reduce the COLA for Civil Service Retirement System annuities.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO



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