



MEMORANDUM

January 2, 2018

To: Members King County Fire Commissioners Association

Fr: Mark L. Thompson, President

RE: Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

1. In late September 2017 a call for action from the Washington State Fire Chiefs Association went out to the Washington Fire Service asking all members and their respective organizations to contact our Washington State US House of Representatives to request and urge them to sign on as a co-sponsor to H.R. 3881, since the Senate had already approved the Senate companion bill.
2. H.R. 3881, legislation would reauthorize the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program (popularly known as the FIRE Act grant program), including the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program. These programs provide critical training, equipment and staffing for the nation's fire and emergency service. Many King County and Washington State fire service agencies have been a benefactor of the SAFER Grant Program and other Fire Act Grants, saving our local fire departments, fire districts and RFA's and citizens a significant amount of local taxpayer dollars.
3. On behalf of the King County Fire Commissioners Association, I wrote letters to each of the US House of Representatives that represent King County to urge them to sign on as a cosponsor for H.R.3881. Representative Dave Reichert of the 8th District had already signed on; so I sent him a Thank You letter for his support of the reauthorization of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.
4. A memo was sent to all of our members urging you to call or send letters from your local fire districts and RFA's. to your respective US House of Representative member, urging them to sign on and support the AFG program.
5. As a result of our letter writing and phone call campaign from King County Fire Commissioners Association and other Washington State fire service organizations and labor groups, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant programs has been approved by Congress and is reauthorized until 2025.
6. Thanks to everyone who took the time to write or call your US House of Representative to urge them to sign on to H.R. 3881 and vote to pass the AFG Program reauthorization.
7. Please send your US House member an email or letter, thanking them for supporting the Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant Program

Mark L. Thompson, President