

Resolution No. 17

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Policy

Re: Maintaining Access to Paramedic Education

1 WHEREAS, the current education for paramedics
2 in the United States is offered as a certification or
3 license that may or may not be associated with an
4 advanced degree program; and

5 WHEREAS, industry leaders in EMS are
6 attempting to establish an advanced degree
7 requirement for any individual desiring to become a
8 paramedic, noting that acquiring a degree will lead to
9 increased revenue generation and better pay; and

10 WHEREAS, the IAFF supports continuing
11 education including members seeking advanced
12 degrees and/or educational opportunities at any level;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the IAFF supports that education, at
15 any level, be both geographically and financially
16 accessible to members; and

17 WHEREAS, supporting the option for state
18 licensure or certification keeps EMS education
19 accessible to fire fighters and other EMS providers;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, an advanced degree would create a
22 financial hardship for fire departments, EMS
23 agencies, fire fighters, and EMS providers and make
24 supporting emergency medical response systems
25 unsustainable; and

26 WHEREAS, there is no identifiable indication
27 that possessing a degree in EMS increases salary
28 overall, particularly in municipal service; and

29 WHEREAS, there is no identifiable indication

30 that EMS agencies that require providers to have
31 degrees see an increase in revenue generation,
32 particularly given that the common payer types
33 provide payment according to a rigid fee schedule;
34 and

35 WHEREAS, the IAFF believes that a design to
36 require an advanced degree to become a paramedic is
37 an attempt to reduce the availability and capability of
38 fire departments and certain EMS agencies to
39 provide service; therefore be it

40 RESOLVED, That the IAFF opposes eliminating
41 the certification or licensure option to becoming a
42 paramedic; and be it further

43 RESOLVED, That the IAFF supports that the
44 certification/licensure option along with an
45 Associate's degree option can be maintained as a
46 means of ensuring quality emergency medical care
47 while maintaining access for anyone seeking
48 paramedic education; and be it further

49 RESOLVED, That the IAFF is not opposed to the
50 creation of a Bachelor's degree program for
51 paramedics, but it is opposed to making the creation
52 of such a degree program a requirement for
53 individual paramedic credentialing; and be it further

54 RESOLVED, That the IAFF will oppose any
55 legislative attempt to eliminate the
56 certification/licensure process and replace it in total
57 with a requirement for an advanced degree process.

Submitted by: IAFF Executive Board

Cost Estimate: None

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt

CONVENTION ACTION: Adopted