

Revised Resolution No. 49

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Health & Safety

Re: Open Behavioral Health Center in California

1 WHEREAS, in the course of doing their jobs,
2 firefighters are confronted with an array of horrors
3 few others can imagine, and the immediate and
4 cumulative impact of these experiences can result in
5 post-traumatic stress injuries as well as lead to
6 unhealthy or dangerous effects such as marital
7 problems, substance abuse and suicide; and

8 WHEREAS, in 2017, the International
9 Association of Fire Fighters opened the first-ever
10 behavioral health treatment facility specifically for
11 firefighters, the IAFF Center of Excellence for
12 Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery; and

13 WHEREAS, the IAFF Center of Excellence
14 provides focused and customized clinical treatment
15 and peer support tailored to the specific needs of first
16 responders and conducted in a familiar firehouse
17 environment; and

18 WHEREAS, the scope and breadth of incidents
19 faced by California firefighters, as well as the large
20 size of the California fire service, points to a
21 substantial need for these types of services in our
22 state; and

23 WHEREAS, California, both through the energy
24 and innovation of its local unions as well as the
25 groundbreaking labor-management partnership
26 campaign initiated by CPF through the California
27 Fire Service Behavioral Health Task Force, is
28 recognized as a national leader in addressing
29 firefighter behavioral health issues; and

30 WHEREAS, CPF has been actively engaged with
31 major health care providers in California to induce
32 them to cover treatment received by CPF members at
33 the IAFF Center of Excellence; and

34 WHEREAS, the location of the IAFF Center of
35 Excellence in Maryland creates a significant
36 geographic and dislocation barrier for California
37 firefighters and other firefighters in need in the
38 Western United States; therefore be it

39 RESOLVED, That the IAFF shall work with an
40 industry partner to conduct a feasibility study to
41 establish a second IAFF Center of Excellence on the
42 west coast; and be it further

43 RESOLVED, That such a west coast
44 IAFF Behavioral Health Center should have clinical
42 and support resources that are, at a minimum,
43 equivalent to those provided through the IAFF
44 Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health
45 Treatment and Recovery in Maryland.

Submitted by: California Professional Firefighters, A-5

Cost Estimate: None

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as Revised

CONVENTION ACTION: Adopted as Revised