



NEWS RELEASE

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Record Number of Virginia Firefighters Lobby in Richmond

January 23, 2026, Richmond, VA -A record number of Virginia firefighters gathered in Richmond this week to advocate for their legislative priorities at the Virginia General Assembly. The event, as part of the Virginia Professional Fire Fighters (VPFF) annual legislative conference, had over 100 firefighter leaders from 40 local International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) affiliates from across the Commonwealth.

At the conference, guest speakers included Attorney General Jay Jones, Senate Majority Leader Scott A. Surovell (D-34), Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) Director Brad Creasy, Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Richmond, Odie Donald, II and City of Richmond Fire Chief Jeffrey Segal.

Firefighter labor leaders then visited and advocated for the VPFF legislative priorities at the General Assembly, meeting with nearly all of Virginia's legislators. These 2026 priorities include:

- Firefighter Cancer Screenings: Grant funding from the VDFP for cancer screenings for firefighters
- Protecting Workers' Rights: Comprehensive collective bargaining for all Virginia workers
- Line-of-Duty Act Alignment: Aligning Workers' Compensation coverage with LODA coverage
- Mental Health Awareness: Mental health training for all Virginia firefighters
- Workers' Compensation Coverage: Adding Lung and Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma to existing coverage

More information on each of these legislative priorities, including associated bill links to the Legislative Information System, can be found on the VPFF website at www.vpff.org under the "legislative" tab.

In addition to the priority legislation from the association, the VPFF is advocating for, monitoring or opposing over 60 different fire service bills within this session of the General Assembly.

The Virginia Professional Fire Fighters is a labor organization representing over 10,000 firefighters, emergency medical providers and 911 communications officers across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Established in 1955, the VPFF supports 67 local affiliates of the International Association of Fire Fighters.

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