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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, On February 5, 2024, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published a notice of proposed rulemaking to issue a new safety and health standard, titled Emergency Response, to replace the existing Fire Brigades Standard, 29 C.F.R 1910.156; and

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WHEREAS, OSHA has requested public comment on the proposed rulemaking that is scheduled to conclude June 21, 2024; and

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has an OSHA-approved state plan; Illinois OSHA has adopted all OSHA standards in 29 CFR 1910; all proposed changes, if adopted, become compulsory for all Illinois fire departments; and

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WHEREAS, While the proposed provisions by OSHA intend to improve the safety of emergency responders, compliance with many of the new OSHA requirements would be financially burdensome and, in some cases, unfeasible for volunteer fire and emergency service departments; and

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has 1,107 registered fire departments, 65.2% of which are fully volunteer and 14.1% are mostly volunteer; and

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1 WHEREAS, OSHA's economic impact analysis of the potential
2 changes lists the average annualized cost per organization at
3 \$14,551 for volunteer departments and \$18,853 for mixed
4 departments; and

5 WHEREAS, Volunteer fire protection districts in Illinois
6 have limited resources, and any additional costs would hamper
7 fire protection safety; and

8 WHEREAS, OSHA is unable to certify that the proposed rule
9 will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial
10 number of small entities; and

11 WHEREAS, OSHA's proposed rules have triggered the need for
12 an Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA) mandated by
13 the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) to determine the true
14 cost to local fire departments; and

15 WHEREAS, Fire protection districts, especially volunteer
16 fire departments, are an important pillar of public safety in
17 Illinois; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we urge OSHA and the federal government to not implement new
21 fire protection standards that will place a financial burden

1 on public safety; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That we urge OSHA and the federal government to
3 conduct further analysis on the proposed changes to minimize
4 the financial burden on small-entity volunteer fire
5 departments; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be sent
7 to all members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation.