

Washington, D.C. - Congressman John Barrow (GA-12) voted today to provide local firefighters with the tools and resources they need to prevent and fight fires, and keep our communities safe. Right now, many towns and cities are facing budget shortfalls and cuts to basic services. The Fire Grants Reauthorization Act invests in vital firefighter assistance programs that allow local fire departments to provide training, purchase equipment and vehicles, and hire personnel.

“This bill provides the funding to keep our homes, our neighborhoods, and most importantly, our families safe,” said Barrow.

The bipartisan legislation authorizes a total of \$2.2 billion a year in grants for local municipalities to upgrade crucial equipment and maintain adequate levels of personnel. It also makes it easier for local fire departments to access these critical funds by lowering matching requirements and modifying time commitments.

Ever since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, fire departments and first responders across the country have been overstretched. This legislation will give our fire departments the critical resources they need to address these threats.

“Our local firefighters must have the best training and equipment at their disposal to keep our communities safe,” said Barrow. “State and local governments may be facing falling revenues and shrinking budgets, but they should never have to choose between adequately trained personnel and functioning equipment. This bill protects against that.”

The bill has the support of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the National Fire Protection Association, and the Congressional Fire Services Institute. □

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