

Whereas, when a hostage taker or suicidal individual calls 911, the first contact that individual has is with a public safety telecommunications professional, whose negotiation skills can prevent the situation from worsening;

Whereas, during crises, public safety telecommunications professionals, while collecting vital information to provide situational awareness for responding officers—

(1) coach callers through first aid techniques; and

(2) give advice to those callers to prevent further harm;

Whereas the work done by individuals who serve as public safety telecommunications professionals has an extreme emotional and physical toll on those individuals, which is compounded by long hours and the around-the-clock nature of the job;

Whereas public safety telecommunications professionals should be recognized by all levels of government for the lifesaving and protective nature of their work;

Whereas major emergencies, including natural disasters and the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, highlight the dedication of public safety telecommunications professionals and their important work in protecting the public and police, fire, and emergency medical officials; and

Whereas public safety telecommunications professionals are often called as witnesses to provide important testimony in criminal trials: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week;

(2) honors and recognizes the important and lifesaving contributions of public safety telecommunications professionals in the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to remember the value of the work performed by public safety telecommunications professionals.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 85. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. OSSOFF) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 86. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 83 submitted by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. SULLIVAN) and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 870, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 85. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. OSSOFF) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS FIRE STATION CONSTRUCTION GRANTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(2) CAREER FIRE DEPARTMENT.—The term “career fire department” means a fire department that has an all-paid force of firefighting personnel other than paid-on-call firefighters.

(3) COMBINATION FIRE DEPARTMENT.—The term “combination fire department” means a fire department that has—

(A) paid firefighting personnel; and

(B) volunteer firefighting personnel.

(4) EMS.—The term “EMS” means emergency medical services.

(5) NONAFFILIATED EMS ORGANIZATION.—The term “nonaffiliated EMS organization” means a public or private nonprofit EMS organization that is not affiliated with a hospital and does not serve a geographic area in which the Administrator finds that EMS are adequately provided by a fire department.

(6) VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.—The term “volunteer fire department” means a fire department that has an all-volunteer force of firefighting personnel.

(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall establish a grant program to provide financial assistance to entities described in subsection (c) to modify, upgrade, and construct fire and EMS department facilities.

(c) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—The Administrator may make a grant under this section to the following:

(1) Career, volunteer, and combination fire departments.

(2) Fire training facilities.

(3) Nonaffiliated EMS organizations, combination and volunteer emergency medical stations (except that for-profit EMS organizations are not eligible for a grant under this section).

(d) APPLICATIONS.—An entity described in subsection (c) seeking a grant under this section shall submit to the Administrator an application in such form, at such time, and containing such information as the Administrator determines appropriate.

(e) MEETING FOR RECOMMENDATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall convene a meeting of qualified members of national fire service organizations and, at the discretion of the Administrator, qualified members of EMS organizations to obtain recommendations regarding the criteria for the awarding of grants under this section.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—For purposes of this subsection, a qualified member of an organization is a member who—

(A) is recognized for firefighting or EMS expertise;

(B) is not an employee of the Federal Government; and

(C) in the case of a member of an EMS organization, is a member of an organization that represents—

(i) EMS providers that are affiliated with fire departments; or

(ii) nonaffiliated EMS providers.

(f) PEER REVIEW OF GRANT APPLICATION.—The Administrator shall, in consultation with national fire service and EMS organizations, appoint fire service personnel to conduct peer reviews of applications received under subsection (d).

(g) PRIORITY OF GRANTS.—In awarding grants under this section, the Administrator shall consider the findings and recommendations of the peer reviews carried out under subsection (f).

(h) USES OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A recipient of a grant under this section may use funds received for the following:

(A) Building, rebuilding, or renovating fire and EMS department facilities.

(B) Upgrading existing facilities to install exhaust emission control systems, install

backup power systems, upgrade or replace environmental control systems (such as HVAC systems), remove or remediate mold, and construct or modify living quarters for use by male and female personnel.

(C) Upgrading fire and EMS stations or building new stations.

(2) CODE COMPLIANT.—In using funds under paragraph (1), a recipient of a grant under this section shall meet 1 of the 2 most recently published editions of relevant codes and standards, especially codes and standards that—

(A) require up-to-date hazard resistant and safety provisions; and

(B) are relevant for protecting firefighter health and safety.

(i) GRANT FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall allocate grant funds under this section as follows:

(A) 25 percent for career fire and EMS departments.

(B) 25 percent for combination fire and EMS departments.

(C) 25 percent for volunteer fire and EMS departments.

(D) 25 percent to remain available for competition between the various department types.

(2) INSUFFICIENT APPLICATIONS.—If the Administrator does not receive sufficient funding requests from a particular department type described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (1), the Administrator may make awards to other departments described in such subparagraphs.

(3) LIMITATION ON AWARDS AMOUNTS.—A recipient of a grant under this section may not receive more than \$7,500,000 under this section.

(j) PREVAILING RATE OF WAGE AND PUBLIC CONTRACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—All laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractors in the performance of construction work financed with the assistance of any contribution of Federal funds made by the Administrator under this section shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar construction in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the “Davis-Bacon Act”).

(2) OVERTIME.—Each employee described in paragraph (1) shall receive compensation at a rate not less than one and ½ times the basic rate of pay of the employee for all hours worked in any workweek in excess of 8 hours in any workday or 40 hours in the workweek, as the case may be.

(3) ASSURANCES.—The Administrator shall make no contribution of Federal funds without first obtaining adequate assurance that the labor standards described in paragraphs (1) and (2) will be maintained upon the construction work.

(4) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF LABOR.—The Secretary of Labor shall have, with respect to the labor standards described in paragraphs (1) and (2), the authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (5 U.S.C. App.) and section 3145 of title 40, United States Code.

(5) PUBLIC CONTRACTS.—Contractors and subcontractors performing construction work pursuant to this section shall procure only manufactured articles, materials, and supplies that have been manufactured in the United States substantially all from articles, materials, or supplies mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States in accordance with the requirements (and exceptions thereto) applicable to Federal agencies under chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code.

(k) **APPLICABILITY.**—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to activities carried out pursuant to this section.

(l) **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **ANNUAL REPORT TO ADMINISTRATOR OF FEMA.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter during the term of a grant awarded under this section, the recipient of the grant shall submit to the Administrator a report describing how the recipient used the amounts from the grant.

(2) **ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the date on which the rebuilding or renovation of fire facilities and stations are completed using grant funds under this section, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report that provides an evaluation of the effectiveness of the grants awarded under this section.

(m) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated \$750,000,000 for fiscal year 2024 to carry out this section. Funds appropriated under this Act shall remain available until expended.

SA 86. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 83 submitted by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. SULLIVAN) and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SEC. —. ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS FIRE STATION CONSTRUCTION GRANTS.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(2) **CAREER FIRE DEPARTMENT.**—The term “career fire department” means a fire department that has an all-paid force of firefighting personnel other than paid-on-call firefighters.

(3) **COMBINATION FIRE DEPARTMENT.**—The term “combination fire department” means a fire department that has—

- (A) paid firefighting personnel; and
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(5) **NONAFFILIATED EMS ORGANIZATION.**—The term “nonaffiliated EMS organization” means a public or private nonprofit EMS organization that is not affiliated with a hospital and does not serve a geographic area in which the Administrator finds that EMS are adequately provided by a fire department.

(6) **VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.**—The term “volunteer fire department” means a fire department that has an all-volunteer force of firefighting personnel.

(b) **GRANT PROGRAM.**—The Administrator shall establish a grant program to provide financial assistance to entities described in subsection (c) to modify, upgrade, and construct fire and EMS department facilities.

(c) **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.**—The Administrator may make a grant under this section to the following:

- (1) Career, volunteer, and combination fire departments.
- (2) Fire training facilities.

(3) **Nonaffiliated EMS organizations, combination and volunteer emergency medical stations** (except that for-profit EMS organizations are not eligible for a grant under this section).

(d) **APPLICATIONS.**—An entity described in subsection (c) seeking a grant under this section shall submit to the Administrator an application in such form, at such time, and containing such information as the Administrator determines appropriate.

(e) **MEETING FOR RECOMMENDATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall convene a meeting of qualified members of national fire service organizations and, at the discretion of the Administrator, qualified members of EMS organizations to obtain recommendations regarding the criteria for the awarding of grants under this section.

(2) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—For purposes of this subsection, a qualified member of an organization is a member who—

- (A) is recognized for firefighting or EMS expertise;
- (B) is not an employee of the Federal Government; and

(C) in the case of a member of an EMS organization, is a member of an organization that represents—

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(f) **PEER REVIEW OF GRANT APPLICATION.**—The Administrator shall, in consultation with national fire service and EMS organizations, appoint fire service personnel to conduct peer reviews of applications received under subsection (d).

(g) **PRIORITY OF GRANTS.**—In awarding grants under this section, the Administrator shall consider the findings and recommendations of the peer reviews carried out under subsection (f).

(h) **USES OF FUNDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A recipient of a grant under this section may use funds received for the following:

(A) Building, rebuilding, or renovating fire and EMS department facilities.

(B) Upgrading existing facilities to install exhaust emission control systems, install backup power systems, upgrade or replace environmental control systems (such as HVAC systems), remove or remediate mold, and construct or modify living quarters for use by male and female personnel.

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(2) **CODE COMPLIANT.**—In using funds under paragraph (1), a recipient of a grant under this section shall meet 1 of the 2 most recently published editions of relevant codes and standards, especially codes and standards that—

(A) require up-to-date hazard resistant and safety provisions; and

(B) are relevant for protecting firefighter health and safety.

(i) **GRANT FUNDING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall allocate grant funds under this section as follows:

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(2) **INSUFFICIENT APPLICATIONS.**—If the Administrator does not receive sufficient funding requests from a particular department type described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (1), the Administrator may make awards to other departments described in such subparagraphs.

(3) **LIMITATION ON AWARDS AMOUNTS.**—A recipient of a grant under this section may not receive more than \$7,500,000 under this section.

(j) **PREVAILING RATE OF WAGE AND PUBLIC CONTRACTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—All laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractors in the performance of construction work financed with the assistance of any contribution of Federal funds made by the Administrator under this section shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar construction in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the “Davis-Bacon Act”).

(2) **OVERTIME.**—Each employee described in paragraph (1) shall receive compensation at a rate not less than one and ½ times the basic rate of pay of the employee for all hours worked in any workweek in excess of 8 hours in any workday or 40 hours in the workweek, as the case may be.

(3) **ASSURANCES.**—The Administrator shall make no contribution of Federal funds without first obtaining adequate assurance that the labor standards described in paragraphs (1) and (2) will be maintained upon the construction work.

(4) **AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF LABOR.**—The Secretary of Labor shall have, with respect to the labor standards described in paragraphs (1) and (2), the authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (5 U.S.C. App.) and section 3145 of title 40, United States Code.

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(k) **APPLICABILITY.**—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to activities carried out pursuant to this section.

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(1) **ANNUAL REPORT TO ADMINISTRATOR OF FEMA.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter during the term of a grant awarded under this section, the recipient of the grant shall submit to the Administrator a report describing how the recipient used the amounts from the grant.

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(m) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated \$750,000,000 for fiscal year 2024 to carry out this section. Funds appropriated under this Act shall remain available until expended.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I have 11 requests for committees to