

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 8790, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. HARDER OF CALIFORNIA**

At the end of the bill add the following:

1 **TITLE IV—ENSURING CASUALTY**
2 **ASSISTANCE FOR OUR FIRE-**
3 **FIGHTERS**

4 **SEC. 401. WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT CASUALTY AS-**
5 **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

6 (a) DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM.—Not later than 6
7 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
8 Secretary of the Interior shall develop a Wildland Fire
9 Management Casualty Assistance Program (referred to in
10 this section as the “Program”) to provide assistance to
11 the next-of-kin of—

12 (1) firefighters who, while in the line of duty,
13 suffer illness or are critically injured or killed; and

14 (2) wildland fire support personnel critically in-
15 jured or killed in the line of duty.

16 (b) ASPECTS OF PROGRAM.—The Program shall ad-
17 dress the following:

18 (1) The initial and any subsequent notifications
19 to the next-of-kin of a firefighter or wildland fire
20 support personnel who—

1 (A) is killed in the line of duty; or

2 (B) requires hospitalization or treatment
3 at a medical facility due to a line-of-duty injury
4 or illness.

5 (2) The reimbursement of next-of-kin for ex-
6 penses associated with travel to visit a firefighter or
7 wildland fire support personnel who—

8 (A) is killed in the line of duty; or

9 (B) requires hospitalization or treatment
10 at a medical facility due to a line-of-duty injury
11 or illness.

12 (3) The qualifications, assignment, training, du-
13 ties, supervision, and accountability for the perform-
14 ance of casualty assistance responsibilities.

15 (4) The relief or transfer of casualty assistance
16 officers, including notification to survivors of critical
17 injury or illness in the line of duty and next-of-kin
18 of the reassignment of such officers to other duties.

19 (5) Centralized, short-term and long-term case
20 management procedures for casualty assistance, in-
21 cluding rapid access by survivors of firefighters or
22 wildland fire support personnel and casualty assist-
23 ance officers to expert case managers and coun-
24 selors.

1 (6) The provision, through a computer acces-
2 sible website and other means and at no cost to sur-
3 vivors and next-of-kin of firefighters or wildland fire
4 support personnel, of personalized, integrated infor-
5 mation on the benefits and financial assistance avail-
6 able to such survivors from the Federal Government.

7 (7) The provision of information to survivors
8 and next-of-kin of firefighters or wildland fire sup-
9 port personnel on mechanisms for registering com-
10 plaints about, or requests for, additional assistance
11 related to casualty assistance.

12 (8) Liaison with the Department of the Inte-
13 rior, the Department of Justice, and the Social Se-
14 curity Administration to ensure prompt and accurate
15 resolution of issues relating to benefits administered
16 by those agencies for survivors of firefighters or
17 wildland fire support personnel.

18 (9) Data collection, in consultation with the
19 United States Fire Administration and the National
20 Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, re-
21 garding the incidence and quality of casualty assist-
22 ance provided to survivors of firefighters or wildland
23 fire support personnel.

24 (c) LINE OF DUTY DEATH BENEFITS.—The Pro-
25 gram shall not affect existing authorities for Line of Duty

1 Death benefits for Federal firefighters and wildland fire
2 support personnel.

3 (d) NEXT-OF-KIN DEFINED.—In this section, the
4 term “next-of-kin” means person or persons in the highest
5 category of priority as determined by the following list
6 (categories appear in descending order of priority):

7 (1) Surviving legal spouse.

8 (2) Children (whether by current or prior mar-
9 riage) age 18 years or older in descending prece-
10 dence by age.

11 (3) Father or mother, unless by court order
12 custody has been vested in another (adoptive parent
13 takes precedence over natural parent);

14 (4) Siblings (whole or half) age 18 years or
15 older in descending precedence by age.

16 (5) Grandfather or grandmother.

17 (6) Any other relative (precedence to be deter-
18 mined in accordance with the civil law of descent of
19 the deceased former member’s State of domicile at
20 time of death).

