

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5905

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a charitable deduction for the service of volunteer firefighters and emergency medical and rescue personnel.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 4, 2025

Mr. BRESNAHAN (for himself and Mr. HARDER of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a charitable deduction for the service of volunteer firefighters and emergency medical and rescue personnel.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Helping Our Heroes
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ALLOWANCE OF CHARITABLE DEDUCTION FOR THE**
 2 **SERVICE OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND**
 3 **EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND RESCUE PER-**
 4 **SONNEL.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 170 of the Internal Rev-
 6 enue Code of 1986 is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating subsection (q) as sub-
 8 section (r), and

9 (2) by inserting after subsection (p) the fol-
 10 lowing new subsection:

11 “(q) SERVICE OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND
 12 EMERGENCY MEDICAL PERSONNEL TREATED AS CHARI-
 13 TABLE CONTRIBUTION.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each hour of qualified
 15 services rendered by an individual as a bona fide vol-
 16 unteer shall be treated for purposes of this section
 17 as a contribution of \$20 to the organization to which
 18 such services are rendered.

19 “(2) LIMITATION.—Not more than 300 hours
 20 of qualified services shall be taken into account
 21 under paragraph (1) with respect to any individual
 22 for any taxable year.

23 “(3) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-
 24 section—

25 “(A) BONA FIDE VOLUNTEER.—An indi-
 26 vidual shall be treated as a bona fide volunteer

1 if the only compensation received by such indi-
2 vidual for performing qualified services is in the
3 form of—

4 “(i) reimbursement for (or a reason-
5 able allowance for) reasonable expenses in-
6 curred in the performance of such services,
7 or

8 “(ii) reasonable benefits (including
9 length of service awards), and fees for such
10 services, customarily paid by eligible em-
11 ployers in connection with the performance
12 of such services by volunteers.

13 “(B) QUALIFIED SERVICES.—The term
14 ‘qualified services’ means fire fighting and pre-
15 vention services, emergency medical and rescue
16 services, ambulance services, civil air patrol,
17 and search and rescue services. Such term shall
18 include all training and training-related activi-
19 ties related to the services described in the pre-
20 ceding sentence which are required or author-
21 ized by the organization referred to in para-
22 graph (1).

23 “(4) VERIFICATION.—A contribution to which
24 this subsection applies shall be verified in such man-
25 ner as the Secretary may provide.

1 “(5) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—In the case of
 2 any taxable year beginning in a calendar year after
 3 2026, the \$20 amount contained in paragraph (1)
 4 shall be increased by an amount equal to—

5 “(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

6 “(B) the cost-of-living adjustment deter-
 7 mined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar
 8 year in which the taxable year begins deter-
 9 mined by substituting ‘calendar year 2025’ for
 10 ‘calendar year 2016’ in subparagraph (A)(ii)
 11 thereof.

12 Any increase determined under the preceding sen-
 13 tence which is not a multiple of \$1 shall be rounded
 14 to the nearest multiple of \$1.

15 “(6) EXCLUSION FOR MEMBERS OF CON-
 16 GRESS.—Services rendered during any period with
 17 respect to which such individual is a Member of
 18 Congress (as defined in section 2106 of title 5,
 19 United States Code) shall not be treated as qualified
 20 services for purposes of this subsection.”.

21 (b) ALLOWANCE OF DEDUCTION TO INDIVIDUALS
 22 WHO DO NOT ELECT TO ITEMIZE DEDUCTIONS.—Sec-
 23 tion 63(b) of such Code is amended by striking paragraph
 24 (4) and inserting the following new paragraph:

1 “(4) so much of the deduction allowed under
2 section 170 for the taxable year as does not exceed
3 the amount of such deduction which would be deter-
4 mined if only contributions treated as made under
5 section 170(q) by reason of services rendered during
6 such taxable year were taken into account.”.

7 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
8 this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after
9 December 31, 2025.

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