

**Police departments required to have a designated infection and exposure control officer.**

### **Ryan White Notification Language Passed by Senate Committee**

On May 20, the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee passed S. 599, the Federal Firefighter Fairness Act of 2009. The bill establishes a presumptive disability for heart and lung disease and cancer for federal firefighters. The bill included an amendment by Senate Tom Coburn (R-OK) that would reinstate the personnel notification provisions of the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-381); these provisions were removed in the 2006 reauthorization. The IAFC is pleased the original language was added to the overall bill and will work for its passage by the full Senate.

Part E, Subpart II of the law, "Notification of Possible Exposure to Infectious Diseases, Section 2681-2690," requires emergency-response employers (i.e., fire departments, police departments, EMS) to have a designated officer for infection or exposure control to respond to requests from employees regarding exposures to communicable diseases and to obtain the disease status of the source patients in those exposures from the medical facility providing treatment to that patient.