



Alice K. Cary, MS
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March 10, 2020

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
Chair
Finance Committee
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alice Cary and I am the Chief of the University of Maryland, Baltimore Police Department. I have spent 33 years working in law enforcement and am here today to respectfully request amendments to ***SB838/HB934 Public Safety -911- Emergency Telephone System.***

Our campus is located just steps from Camden Yards in the heart of Baltimore City. We welcome 14,000 students, faculty, and staff to our campus each day. Across UMB's 71 acres, the University of Maryland, Baltimore Police Department, or UMBPD, employs 60 sworn police officers, 83 security personnel, and 9 police communications operators. We are currently hiring an additional 33 security officers to patrol campus and increase visibility, especially during peak travel times.

Late last year, a privately-owned restaurant located within our campus boundary was robbed three times. The Baltimore Police Department (BPD) was called and responded. Our UMBPD officers, who were just steps away, only learned of the robberies when they saw BPD cars outside the restaurant. After each robbery, our ability to send an alert about a potentially dangerous person on campus was delayed – sometimes by several hours.

Our officers are a valuable resource to BPD, who are short-staffed and receive a high volume of calls. We work closely with BPD to ensure the safety of UMB's campus and surrounding neighborhoods. We are an asset to BPD, who are free to take calls elsewhere while UMBPD officers handle calls in our own jurisdiction – but we can't be an asset if we don't know about the calls.

SB838 potentially ties our hands. Trained UMBPD officers could be just steps away from a crime scene, but if we don't know, we can't respond. This bill must include language that would require the primary PSAP to immediately relay emergency information to local first responder jurisdictions, like UMBPD. Without it, we cannot respond to emergencies in our own jurisdiction. Without it, we cannot effectively support our law enforcement partners.

I leave you with this: A community member recently experienced a medical emergency in one of our buildings. A security officer and police communications officer alerted a nearby UMBPD officer, who responded and performed CPR until a Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD) ambulance arrived. That person survived.

With this bill in effect, our officers – who are trained in CPR/AED – would not have been notified. Responding BCFD paramedics would struggle to locate the victim in our buildings without responding UMBPD officers to escort them. First-responder care would be delayed, as UMBPD officers could not begin CPR/AED and could not help BCFD to find the victim. In fact, *UMBPD may never even know this incident occurred.* Even if they were notified, UMBPD's police communication officers could not provide real-time information directly to our own officers – it would all have to be routed through Baltimore City's PSAP.

This situation could become a very real possibility if SB838 passes as written. I strongly urge you to modify this bill to include the following two requirements:

1. PSAPs must be required to relay emergency incident information to the appropriate local first responder jurisdictions, like UMBPD. Sending this emergency incident information requires significant financial, legal, political, and labor resources. I fear that, without a mandate, PSAPs will not be inclined or able to share data with those who need it most.

Suggested Amendment:

PAGE 6 – LINE 10 – DELETE BRACKETS AROUND – [appropriate public safety agencies]

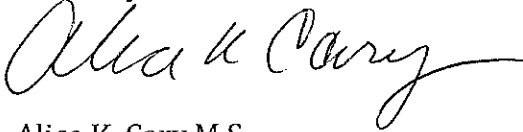
or

PAGE 6 – LINE 14 - INSERT *"An appropriate state emergency communications center responsible for the delivery of public safety services on a state campus or facility."*

2. The proposed Emergency Number Systems Board, or ENSB, must be representative of the full spectrum of a 911 call. This means that, in addition to 911 call centers, we also must include consumers of emergency incident information on the ENSB, including universities, the Maryland State Police, municipal police departments, and federal agencies. Having all stakeholders represented on the ENSB ensures all first responder agencies are able to guide the future of 911 services and emergency incident information. As it is currently written, this bill seeks to eliminate all but county PSAPs from the ENSB.

We are all working towards the same goal: we all want to ensure Marylanders and visitors to our great state are protected and safe. We all need to work together to make this goal a reality. I ask the committee for favorable consideration of our proposed amendments. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alice K. Cary". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Alice K. Cary M.S.
Chief of Police
University of Maryland, Baltimore