



Washington County Volunteer  
Fire and Rescue Association

1501 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Hagerstown, MD 21742  
March 2, 2020

**To: The members of the Health and Government Operations Committee - Honorable  
Shane E. Pendergrass Chair, Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair**

**re: House Bill 1496 - Medical Assistance Program – Emergency Service Transporters –  
Reimbursement for Transportation and Medical Services  
(Increasing fees for transport)**

Members:

I wish to express my support and the support of the Washington County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association with House Bill 1496 based upon the following facts and observations:

- ❖ Washington County EMS is still provided by 26 individual non-profit Fire and EMS companies
- ❖ Ems calls in Washington County are 85% of our total responses
- ❖ According to Community Rescue Service, our Largest EMS provider, they ran 17,900 calls last year at an average cost of \$365.00 per call
- ❖ 4000 calls were Medicaid billable calls which allowed us to bill for 100.00 for each call which resulted in outstanding unbillable costs of \$1,060,000.
- ❖ Due to the opioid crisis many of our calls are drug or overdose related
  - We may transport a patient more than once in a 24 hour period but can only bill for one transport per day
  - After reviving the patient they refuse transport and thus are included in the above amount yet a service was provided.

This bill will allow us to bill for Medicaid services at a rate much closer to our costs which are now draining our member companies' ability to function and keep responding to our citizen's needs here in Washington County.

Therefore I ask you to - Please vote favorably for this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted:

Dale Fishack  
President