

# MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

*Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel*



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## OPPOSITION OF SB-454; Public Safety – Mandatory Mental Health Training – First Responders and Law Enforcement Officers

Mr. Chairman Clippinger

Madam Vice Chair Atterbeary

My name is Kate Tomanelli and I am the Executive Director for the Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA), and I am also a volunteer emergency medical technician in Queen Anne's County. I am writing in OPPOSITION of Senate bill 454.

As many of you know, the MSFA is a statewide organization representing over 25,000 volunteer fire, rescue, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics and 363 member companies.

The MSFA and its fire service members rely on the Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) and the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI) to design and implement mental health training for our volunteer personnel. To date, as stated in MIEMSS' testimony, specific to EMS personnel, the EMS providers in Maryland already receive initial and continuing education mental health training that has been approved by the State EMS Board.

So due to this training already being offered to our volunteers, the MSFA also believes the bill to be unnecessary and, as such, is opposed to SB-454.