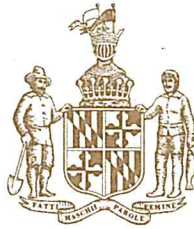


**MICHAEL A. JACKSON**  
Legislative District 27  
Calvert, Charles and  
Prince George's Counties



*Annapolis Office*  
Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 West  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3700 · 301-858-3700  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3700  
Michael.Jackson@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Pensions

Public Safety, Transportation, and  
Environment

*District Office*  
250 Merrimac Court  
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

***TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 10***  
***WORKERS' COMPENSATION –***  
***COVID19 OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE PRESUMPTION***  
***FINANCE COMMITTEE***

***MARCH 8, 2022***

Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Finance Committee Members:

Senate Bill 10 is a very straight-forward bill that simply creates an Occupational Disease Presumption under workers compensation law for first responders, public safety employees, and health care workers for claims related to COVID-19.

In the public safety realm, those eligible to receive the presumption would be firefighters, emergency medical technicians, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, members of the Maryland National Guard, the State Fire Marshal's Office. In the healthcare sphere, those eligible would include individuals employed in health care, home care, or long-term care settings whose duties include direct patient care or other work in areas where patients diagnosed with COVID-19 are treated. The legislation would apply retroactively and be interpreted to affect workers' compensation claims filed on or after March 1, 2020 and it would sunset on July 31, 2023.

First responders, public safety, and health professionals face unique challenges in the work that they do and those challenges have truly been magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic. Allowing this presumption would be a valuable solace for these public servants who sacrifice so much for the benefit of their communities.

**For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 10.**