

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

REPRESENTING THE VOLUNTEER FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMS PERSONNEL OF MARYLAND.



Robert P. Phillips

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HB 271 9-8-8 Trust Fund – Funding

My name is Robert Phillips and I am the Legislative Committee Chairman for the Maryland State FireFighters Association (MSFA).

I wish to present testimony in favor of House Bill 271: 9-8-8 Trust Fund – Funding

This legislation requires the Governor to provide funding for the reimbursement for costs associated with maintaining 9-8-8 as the universal telephone number for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hot line.

The fire service has recognized mental health decline as a major issue negatively impacting our members. The incidence of suicide has impacted all walks of life and the public safety service especially. The passing of this bill would provide the funds to make a universal phone number available to anyone experiencing a mental health crisis where they would be able to get help quickly.

I thank the committee for their time and attention to this important bill and ask that you vote favorable on House Bill 271.

My contact information is listed above and welcome any further inquiries you might have.