



UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND

MARYLAND FIRE AND RESCUE INSTITUTE

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Senator Guzzone  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Guzzone,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI), the state's comprehensive education and training facility for emergency services. Annually training 25,000 to 35,000 first responders, our institute delivers high-quality, all-encompassing Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Fire, and Rescue training programs to every jurisdiction in the state. As Executive Director of MFRI, I am submitting my testimony in support of Senate Bill 1092.

The bill requests an increase in motor vehicle registration fees to support the Maryland Emergency Medical Services Operations Fund. The additional revenue is essential to support statewide, first-responder services which include: ten trauma helicopters, the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), and Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI).

The above entities have been severely impacted by the rise in inflation and are a necessity to ensure the safety of Maryland's citizens.

MFRI's training programs are essential to swift and efficient response to EMS, Fire, Rescue, and all-hazards emergencies. Before an emergency medical technician (EMT), paramedic or firefighter can contribute to their communities, they must receive proper training. Training is also imperative to protect first responders from the inherent dangers of their roles.

Additionally, we must be able to quickly address and train first responders as new hazards emerge.

I ask you and your constituents for assistance to ensure Maryland's statewide medical system has the required resources to protect life, property, and the environment.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Cox, Jr., MS, CFO, EFO, NRP  
Executive Director