

CHERYL C. KAGAN  
Legislative District 17  
Montgomery County

—  
Vice Chair  
Education, Energy, and  
the Environment Committee



Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Suite 2 West  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
301-858-3134 · 410-841-3134  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3134  
Fax 301-858-3665 · 410-841-3665  
Cheryl.Kagan@senate.state.md.us

Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee  
Joint Committee on Federal Relations

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**SB36: 9-8-8 Use of 9-1-1 Funds**  
Senate Budget & Taxation Committee  
Wednesday, January 15, 2025 10:30 AM

There is a mental health crisis in America. The advent of the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline in 2022 was a tremendous step forward in providing people with the support they need. The integration of 9-1-1 and 9-8-8 is critical to improve the delivery of services to the public.

[“Carl Henn’s Law”](#)-- named in memory of my friend and Rockville activist who died when 9-1-1 failed-- was enacted in 2019 to ensure that 9-1-1 Trust Fund dollars are used *exclusively* for 9-1-1 services. This limitation impedes our ability to connect 9-8-8 and 9-1-1.

[SB36](#) would allow a very modest amount of money from the 9-1-1 Trust Fund to be spent on 9-8-8 integration.

This bill was requested by the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM), in consultation with the Maryland 9-1-1 Board Chair and Maryland Association of Counties Emergency Communications Committee. It would allow First Responders to maintain the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency operations while providing support for those in crisis.

Sen. Malcolm Augustine, the Senate’s go-to on 9-8-8, is a co-sponsor of this bill.

**I urge a favorable report on SB36.**