



BALTIMORE COUNTY LODGE NO. 4  
**FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE**

INCORPORATED

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DAVID M. ROSE  
LODGE PRESIDENT

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The Honorable William C Smith Jr., Chairman  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 326 - Public Safety - Law Enforcement Agencies - Peer Support Programs -Support

Chairman Smith,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 326, which aims to codify, with certain exceptions, the confidentiality of communications between law enforcement officers and peer support specialists. As a member of the Baltimore County Police Department, I have personally witnessed the profound impact that peer support networks have had in helping officers cope with the unique challenges and stressors associated with our profession.

In May 2018, following the tragic line-of-duty death of Officer Amy Caprio, our department began informal peer support meetings on the second floor of our lodge. These gatherings provided a vital space for officers to come together, grieve, and offer mutual support during an incredibly difficult time. Over the years, we recognized the need for a more formalized structure to ensure the well-being of our officers, and we have since established regular peer-to-peer meetings, often attended by members of our agency's peer counseling unit as well as mental health professionals from across the state and nation.

While these meetings have proven invaluable, one concern that has consistently been raised by our officers is the fear that their confidential communications may not be protected. Many officers are reluctant to speak freely about the personal and professional challenges they face, fearing that their words may be disclosed to management or others who do not need to know. The establishment of legal protections for confidential peer support communications, as outlined in SB 326, is essential in addressing this concern and ensuring that officers can engage in these critical conversations without fear of reprisal or breach of trust.

Currently, fire professionals in the state of Maryland are afforded the protection of confidentiality during peer support sessions. Law enforcement officers, however, do not have the same legal assurance. This bill would extend the same level of confidentiality to law enforcement officers, recognizing that we, too, are often exposed to traumatic incidents that require the same level of psychological support and care.

I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of SB 326 as written. This legislation will help foster a safer and more supportive environment for law enforcement officers, ultimately contributing to their mental health and overall effectiveness in serving our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dave Rose  
President  
Baltimore County FOP Lodge #4

REPRESENTING THE PROFESSIONAL POLICE OFFICERS OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

