

January 28, 2025

Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
ATTN: Chair William C. Smith, Jr. and Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher
SENT VIA EMAIL

RE: Recommending a Favorable Report on SB334

Chair Smith and Honorable Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 334, which seeks to enhance protections for firefighters by criminalizing malicious or fraudulent burning that results in the death or serious physical injury of a firefighter.

Firefighters put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities. This legislation provides a critical safeguard by establishing felony penalties for actions that endanger these public servants. By imposing strict consequences, including up to 10 years of imprisonment, the bill sends a clear message that malicious acts causing harm to firefighters through perpetration of this violent crime will not be tolerated.

This is a vital step to deter harmful behavior and to honor the sacrifices made by firefighters who risk their safety and their very lives to protect the citizens of the communities they serve. I urge your support for this legislation to ensure their wellbeing and reinforce our commitment to their protection.

Thank you for considering this important matter and I strongly encourage the Committee to return a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,



Joshua L. Fannon, President
IAFF Local 964 Baltimore Fire Officers

CC: Mr. Jeffrey Buddle, President, Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland