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The Honorable Members of the Maryland General Assembly
Legislative Services Building
90 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly:

On behalf of the Maryland Fire and Explosive Investigator's Association, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed legislation of Senate Bill 334 a bill entitled an act concerning **Criminal Law – Crimes of Malicious or Fraudulent Burning – Prohibitions and Penalties**. This legislation is a critical step toward protecting Maryland's firefighters and holding accountable those whose malicious actions endanger their lives.

Firefighters risk their lives daily to protect our communities. This legislation addresses crimes of malicious or fraudulent burning that result in the death or serious injury of a firefighter. By establishing this as a felony offense, punishable by up to 10 years' imprisonment, it appropriately reflects the seriousness of these crimes and acts as a deterrent.

Our association, comprised of fire and arson investigators, has witnessed the devastating consequences of such actions. Many of our members are directly involved in investigating these crimes, bringing their expertise to uncover the truth and seek justice for affected firefighters and their families. Beyond the immediate destruction, the toll on firefighters and their families is immeasurable. This legislation underscores Maryland's commitment to safeguarding its first responders and ensures offenders face serious consequences.

We commend the provision allowing sentences under this section to be imposed separately or concurrently with related offenses, ensuring full accountability for significant harm caused.

The Maryland Fire and Explosive Investigator's Association urges the General Assembly to pass this legislation promptly to enhance protections for firefighters and deter future crimes. We stand ready to support this critical effort in any way necessary.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact me for further information or to discuss this issue in more detail.

Respectfully,



Aaron Tyler

President

Maryland Fire and Explosive Investigator's Association