



BALTIMORE COUNTY
FEDERATION OF
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
AFT / AFL - CIO / BCFPE Local #4883

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**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
SB 148**

**Income Tax– Subtraction Modification – Public Safety Employment Retirement Income
(Supporting Our 9-1-1 Specialists Act)**

January 21, 2026

SUPPORT / FAVORABLE

Good morning, Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee.

My name is John Ripley, President of Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees (BCFPE Local #4883) representing Baltimore County 9-1-1 Center Specialist.

I respectfully call on this committee to issue a favorable report to **SB 148**, recognizing 9-1-1 Center Specialist as True First Responders by adding them to the Hometown Heroes Act.

Over the years I have witnessed these hard-working men and women perform very stressful, highly technical, ever changing and demanding public safety job. As a 9-1-1 Center Specialist they have demonstrated countless acts of sacrifice and commitment to Public Safety. 9-1-1 Center Specialist also commonly support communities that they live and serve in other wide-ranging ways.

The State has recognizes the work 9-1-1 Center Specialist by correctly re-classifying them as "First Responders." Now let's correctly add 9-1-1 Specialist to the Hometown Heroes Act. I urge you to support **SB 148**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Ripley", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

President John Ripley

Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees Local #4883