



SB714: Public Safety - 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System - Alterations

Position: Favorable

Senate Finance Committee

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Honorable Committee Members:

I write today in support of SB714, “Public Safety - 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System - Alterations,” which would improve our public safety system and provide vital support for our 9-1-1 specialists. These public safety professionals are far too often overlooked, and excluded from the title of first responders, but nothing could be more incorrect. 9-1-1 specialists are truly the *first* first responders, and Senator Kagan’s proposed legislation takes a multifaceted approach to modernizing and improving our emergency response systems in Maryland.

An important aspect of SB714 is its mental health implications for our 9-1-1 Specialists. First responders are exposed to traumatic events far more than the typical citizen, and protections need to be put in place to ensure their long term safety and wellness. The proposed psychological training and study of inclusion in Workers’ Compensation are important steps to ensure our Specialists are properly supported.

As a member of the bicameral, bipartisan Congressional NextGen 9-1-1 Caucus, I am proud to see Maryland leading the way towards modernizing our emergency response infrastructure and supporting our frontline first responders. I urge the committee to provide a favorable report, and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Trone".

DAVID TRONE
Member of Congress