



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

John Ripley
BCFPE President
305 W. Chesapeake Ave., Suite L-30
Towson, Maryland 21204-4841
Ph: 410-296-1875
Fax: 410-296-1879

February 23, 2021

RE: FAVORABLE- SB651: Workers Compensation-Permanent Partial Disability - Baltimore County Detention and Correctional Officers.

Honorable Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is John Ripley and I am the President of The Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees who represents approximately 500 active and retired Correctional Officers in Baltimore County. Over the years I have witnessed these hard-working men and women perform countless acts of sacrifice and bravery. As a Correctional Officers these men and women perform the difficult tasks that a police officer, paramedic and firefighter does daily. It is because of this that in 2018 Governor Hogan and lawmakers deservingly allowed Maryland State, Prince Georges County, Montgomery County, Allegany County, Howard County and Anne Arundel County Correctional Officers to join Police Officers and Firefighters in receiving better workplace injury compensation. In 2020 HB685 also passed to now including Harford County Correctional Officers to the same injury compensation plan. Now in 2021 SB651 would finally allow our dedicated Correctional Officers of Baltimore County to be added to this benefit. Correctional Officers have amongst the highest rates of injuries and illnesses, often resulting from their daily and dangerous contact with inmates. This bill would provide *EQUAL* Workers' Compensation benefits for the Correctional Officers who become ill or are injured on the job, while working for the Baltimore County Department of Corrections, just like our other Public Safety Partners.

Because of this I urge you to support SB651. This is much needed for our dedicated Correctional Officers of Baltimore County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

President John Ripley

Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees Local #4883