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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

February 23, 2021

Senator Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Finance Committee
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support of SB 865 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program –
Emergency Services Transporters - Reimbursement

Dear Senator Kelley:

The Board of County Commissioners of Washington County, Maryland, by a vote of 5-0, supports Senate Bill 865. Each would amend Health General Article, §15-114.1 and would require reasonable reimbursement to emergency service transporters for services to recipients of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

Emergency service transporters in Washington County are frequently called to assist Medical Assistance recipients who then decline to be transported to the hospital. Under current practice, the emergency service provider is not compensated for the services that have been provided, causing a hardship to the providers of such services. The above referenced bill would correct this situation to require compensation for the services rendered in response to a 911 call, regardless of whether transport to the hospital is subsequently refused by the patient. Additionally, the current rate of compensation to emergency transporters is grossly insufficient, both in absolute terms and in comparison to neighboring states. That matter may need to be addressed in a separate bill, but Senate Bill 865 at least corrects part of an existing problem.

For the foregoing reasons, the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County respectfully and without reservation urges the Committee to approve SB 865.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: 
Jeffrey A. Cline, President

cc (via email): Senator Paul D. Corderman