

PAUL D. CORDERMAN  
*Legislative District 2*  
Washington County

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Education, Business and Administration

Pensions



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**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 867 Criminal Law – Hate Crimes – First Responders**

Chairman Smith & Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee;

Police Officers, Fire Fighters, and other first responders put their lives on the line each and every day to keep our communities safe. Unfortunately, many first responders have been the target of unprovoked attacks. In December of 2020, a Montgomery County Police Officer was punched in the face twice by a young man for no apparent reason other than his uniform. In August of 2020, three Prince George's Police Officers were shot in an ambush style attack when responding to a report of a robbery. And in January of 2020, a video surfaced showing a Baltimore Police Officer being kicked by a group of people while he was arresting someone who spat in his face. These are just three examples within the past year and one month of the behaviors shown to our First Responders simply because of their profession.

SB 867 prohibits a person, with a certain motivation, from willfully intimidating, harassing, or terrorizing another person, causing certain damage to property of another person, or causing death or serious bodily harm to another person based on their actual or perceived employment as a first responder. Our First Responders have sworn to protect, serve, and assist our citizens, and we must honor that commitment with legislation that supports the commitment they have made to our respective communities

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 867 to you this afternoon and I respectfully ask for a favorable report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul D. Corderman".

Paul D. Corderman