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**BILL NO.:** Senate Bill 633

**TITLE:** Public Safety – 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System - Alterations

**SPONSOR:** Senator Kagan

**COMMITTEE:** Finance

**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**

**DATE:** March 8, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 633 – Public Safety – 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System – Alterations. This legislation would alter the classification and compensation of 9-1-1 specialists and authorize them to seek confidential treatment.

9-1-1 specialists are essential to the health and safety of all Maryland residents. These specialists provide support in often tense and serious situations, and the COVID-19 pandemic has added extra intensity to operations. The last two years have reaffirmed that these specialists deserve fair compensation for their vital work. 9-1-1 specialists often experience high rates of mental stress due to the urgent nature of their job, and it is crucial that they are provided resources to seek mental health assistance.

Senate Bill 633 expands access to mental health services for 9-1-1 specialists by allowing them to confidentially seek treatment. This will allow more workers to have access to the mental health care services they need to deal with the serious and sensitive nature of their work. SB 633 also guarantees compensation above minimum wage for all 9-1-1 specialists. These protections are critically important for these workers who are essential to the functioning of the State.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 633. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at [jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov).