



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

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**RE: FAVORABLE-SB374: 911 Center Specialists - Occupational Disease Presumption.
Responders.**

Honorable Members of the Finance Committee,

First, I want to thank Senator Kagan, Senator Reilly and Senator Jackson for their work on this legislation.

My name is John Ripley and I am the President of The Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees who represents approximately 1500 Baltimore County Employees including 250 active Baltimore County 911 Center Employees. Over the years I have witnessed these hard-working men and women perform these highly technical jobs demonstrating countless acts of sacrifice and commitment to Public Safety. 911 Center Employees are the "TRUE" First Responders and should be treated as such when it comes to occupational diseases like their public safety partners. Emergency after emergency, our 911 Center Specialist live each and every crisis they handle. They calmly walk callers through life saving techniques to control bleeding, dislodge choking obstructions, perform CPR and other unimaginable emergencies. In the end, 911 Center Specialist live through countless emergencies and in doing so, they are sometimes the last comforting voice a caller will ever hear or the caring voice as a love one passes away .

Because of this, I urge you to support **SB374**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

President John Ripley

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