

# MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

REPRESENTING THE VOLUNTEER FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMS PERSONNEL OF MARYLAND.



**Robert P. Phillips**

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## **SB 374 Workers' Compensation – Occupational Disease Presumptions – 9-1-1 Specialists**

My name is Robert Phillips and I am the Legislative Committee Chairman for the Maryland State Firefighter's Association (MSFA).

I wish to present testimony in favor of **Senate Bill 374: Workers' Compensation – Occupational Disease Presumptions – 9-1-1 Specialists**

This legislation is fully supported by the MSFA. We feel that the first link in the "Public Safety" chain is the 9-1-1 call taker. This person receives the call for assistance and starts the process to take care of the emergency. The call takers are subjected to the same mental trauma that the first responders face in the field, but sadly they do not see the end result and outcome so therefore many times do not have their closure. The "call takers" have the same issues as other first responders and require the same assistance and so should be considered to be affected in the same manner.

I thank the committee for their time on this important issue and ask that you favorably support Senate Bill 374..

Thank you and I would be glad to answer any questions you might have.