

# MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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



**Robert P. Phillips**

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## **SB 446 Public Safety – Fire, Rescue, or Emergency Medical Services Entities – Peer Support Programs**

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 446: Public Safety – Fire, Rescue, or Emergency Medical Services Entities – Peer Support Programs**

This legislation will allow peer assistance to first responders who are facing personal issues to remain confidential. It provides protections for the first responder and peer support provider, that the conversations between them are confidential in nature and not subject to inquiry by others. This will further put at ease a first responder who is in need of peer support. Asking for help can be a traumatic experience, and then having to wonder if your conversation is open to review by others just makes it more complicated and difficult.

I thank the committee for their time on this important issue and ask that you favorably support Senate Bill 446..

Thank you and I'd be glad to answer questions that you might have.