

MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

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



Robert P. Phillips

Chair

Legislative Committee

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SB 527: Fire, Rescue, or Emergency Medical Services Entities – Peer Support Programs

My name is Robert Phillips and I am the Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland State Firefighters Association (MSFA)

I wish to present testimony in favor of Senate Bill 527: Fire, Rescue, or Emergency Medical Services Entities – Peer Support Programs

The MSFA is in favor of and support this bill. This bill asks for a change in the definition of "Peer support counseling program" to "Peer support program" and defining it as an evidence-based program provided by a fire, rescue, or emergency medical services entity or the International Association of Firefighters that provides EVIDENCE-BASED SUPPORT from a peer support specialist to a member of a fire, rescue, or emergency medical services entity. This will allow additional qualified people to be available to assist our members who may need help, with out changing the quality of assistance or the intent of the original language.

I thank the committee for their time and attention to this important bill and ask that you vote favorable on Senate Bill 527.

I will now be glad to answer any questions, or my contact information is listed above and welcome any further inquiries you might have.