

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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



Robert P. Phillips

Chair

Legislative Committee

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SB568: Criminal Law – Threat Against State or Local Official – First Responder

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

I wish to present testimony of favorable with an amendment on **Senate Bill SB568: Criminal Law – Threat Against State or Local Official – First Responder**

The MSFA feels that this is a good bill but would like to make it a great bill by including the first person in the first responder list, the 9-1-1 dispatcher / call taker. These dispatcher/call takers are the first to interact with the public and also face the wrath of the same public when events do not go the way some expect them to. We feel that the dispatchers/call takes should deserve the same protections as all other "first responders".

I thank the committee for their time and attention to this important bill and ask that you vote favorable with our suggested amendment on Senate Bill 568.

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