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**CECIL COUNTY GOVERNMENT**  
Cecil County Administration Building  
200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton, MD 21921

The Honorable Ben Barnes  
The Honorable Mark S. Chang  
Appropriations Committee  
Room 121  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 0899 – Higher Education – Firefighters and EMS Recruitment and Retention – Scholarship and Loan Repayment Assistance  
Letter of Support

Dear Chairman Barnes, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

The County Council and the County Executive of Cecil County unanimously support HB 0899 - Higher Education – Firefighters and EMS Recruitment and Retention – Scholarship and Loan Repayment Assistance. The hearing on this legislation is scheduled for March 6, 2024.

It is our understanding that this legislation is altering the Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship to make the scholarship applicable to all programs at institutions of higher education in the State; altering the maximum award available, when a scholarship should be credited, and to whom initial awards should be provided under the scholarship; establishing the Maryland Loan Repayment Assistance Program for Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Providers; providing for the administration of the loan repayment program; etc.

Cecil County strongly supports this, and any bill, that creates programs that offers assistance to help us promote careers and higher education for our firefighters and EMS personnel for recruitment and retention.

The County Executive and County Council of Cecil County respectfully request that the Appropriations Committee send a favorable report on HB 0899.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hornberger".

Danielle Hornberger  
County Executive

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jackie Gregory".

Jackie Gregory  
President of County Council