

MIKE MCKAY
Legislative District 1
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



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Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 12, 2024

RE: Fire/EMS Coalition Support for House Bill 190

Dear Chairman Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Committee,

The Fire/EMS Coalition would like to express their support for House Bill 190: Workers' Compensation - Occupational Disease Presumptions - First Responders. The bill will stipulate that a first responder who is diagnosed by a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist with post-traumatic stress disorder is presumed under certain circumstances to have an occupational disease that was suffered in the line of duty and is compensable under workers' compensation law.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), roughly 1 in 3 first responders develop PTSD during their careers. PTSD is a major mental health hurdle for our state's first responders. This bill would ease this hurdle for our valued first responders.

The Fire/EMS Coalition supports House Bill 190 as it will be beneficial to all emergency personnel in Maryland as they would be better able to provide for themselves and their families in case of long-term mental health issues directly related to their work. The Coalition supports this measure to protect just compensation for first responders and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike McKay".

Senator Mike McKay
Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland
Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties

Voting Organizations:
Maryland Fire Chief's Association (MFCA)
Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA)

State Fire Marshal (OSFM)
Maryland Fire Rescue Institute (MFRI)
Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System (MIEMMS)
Metro Fire Chief's Association
Professional Firefighters of Maryland

Our Mission Statement

The Maryland Fire/EMS Coalition unites Republicans and Democrats in support of fire/emergency services legislation that benefit all first responders. Becoming a member does not require taking positions on legislation; rather Coalition members are asked to offer support in a way that best benefits fire/emergency services in their respective Legislative Districts.