



WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

P.O. BOX 870

SALISBURY, MARYLAND 21803-0870

410-548-4801

FAX: 410-548-4803

Bunky Luffman
Director of Administration

Matt Leitzel
Assistant Director of Administration

Julie M. Giordano
County Executive

February 14, 2024

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support SB 691

Dear Senator Feldman:

I am writing in support of SB 691 Firefighters and EMS Recruitment and Retention Legislation. This bill would be helpful with encouraging younger people in choosing to become a member of their local fire company. Having 100% of the cost of tuition and mandatory fees at in-state community colleges covered would be a real enticement for recruitment.

Modeled after the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Police Officers, having a program for awarding student loan assistance to firefighters and EMS personnel will be an incentive for retention for those who have been members of the fire service to continue.

By aiding with financial educational assistance would be a first step to increase the capacity of Maryland's fire fighter and emergency service workforce which would help in keeping our communities safe.

We would be grateful for your assistance in helping this bill be passed.

Respectfully,

WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND



Julie M. Giordano
County Executive