



Maryland Fire and Explosives Investigators Association
PO Box 457
Finksburg, Maryland 21048

November 2, 2023

Maryland General Assembly
Legislative Services Building,
90 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear General Assembly Members,

On behalf of the Maryland Fire and Explosives Investigators Association, representing public sector and private sector fire and explosives investigators throughout the State of Maryland, I am writing to express strong support for legislation aimed at enhancing the penalties for arson-related criminal charges when a firefighter is injured or killed in the response to or suppression of the resulting fire. Our firefighters put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities and keep us safe from the devastating effects of fires. Our responsibility is to ensure that they are provided with the protection they deserve when they are called upon to respond to such dangerous situations.

Arson cases that result in injuries to firefighters not only cause physical harm but also inflict emotional and psychological trauma on these brave individuals and their families. These selfless individuals are willing to risk everything to protect our homes, businesses, and loved ones. We must do everything in our power to deter those who would intentionally harm them.

The proposed legislation to increase the penalties for such heinous acts is a crucial step toward ensuring justice for our firefighters. By imposing more stringent penalties, we can send a clear message that this kind of violence against first responders will not be tolerated, and those who commit such acts will be held accountable for their actions.

In addition to discouraging such destructive behavior, this legislation will also provide much-needed support and recognition for the sacrifices made by our firefighters. We must stand by those who risk their lives to protect us, and this legislation is an important way to do just that.

Thank you for your dedication to our community's safety, and for considering the importance of this legislation. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you need any additional information or assistance in pushing for this essential legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'ATC' with a stylized flourish.

Aaron Tyler, President