

**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**

January 30, 2024

RE: Fire/EMS Coalition Support for Senate Bill 435

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

The Fire/EMS Coalition would like to express their support for Senate Bill 435: Criminal Law – Crimes of Arson – Prohibitions and Penalties. The bill will establish that a person who intentionally commits an act of arson that injures a firefighter during the response to the fire or efforts to suppress the fire will be guilty of committing a felony and will face a sentence of imprisonment not exceeding 10 years. A sentence imposed upon individuals for the injury of a firefighter in response to an arsonist fire will be separate and consecutive to any imposed sentence for any crime based upon violation of the law.

The Fire/EMS Coalition supports Senate Bill 435 as it will be beneficial to all public safety volunteers in Maryland as this bill would help to reduce arsonist-related fires as well as ensure justice for firefighters affected by arson crime. The Coalition supports this bill for justice for firefighters 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.