

UNFAVORABLE on SB0496

Criminal Law - Interference With a Public Safety Answering Point – Penalties

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Dear Senators of JPR,

Senator Kagan, whose work with the 9-1-1 system is admirable, has written a bill that extends to any number of scenarios outside of the example given.

The penalties involved and the ambiguity of such words as “interrupt” or “impair” are not reasonable. If I didn’t like what Governor Hogan was saying during press conferences as he blathered on about the scandemic, then went up near the podium and made hand gestures next to his several hearing-impaired sign languagers, would that be an “impairment”?

Further, this bill opens an ability for any tyrannical state official to say being yelled at from the audience, accidentally kicking a power cable or just blocking an aisle for a few extra seconds to be caught up in dictatorial powers.

When we have 9-1-1 hacking and other serious issues, we can use state and/or federal regulations. Those are rightfully set as felonies.

We do not need bills potentially curtailing freedom of speech at what are often politically-inspired rallies. This is America, not China.

I urge an UNFavorable for this inhuman approach of SB0496.

humbly offered

~vince