

**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 23, 2024

RE: Fire/EMS Coalition Support for Senate Bill 496

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

The Fire/EMS Coalition would like to express their support for Senate Bill 496: Criminal Law – Interference With a Public Safety Answering Point – Penalties. The bill will prohibit a person from taking certain actions with the intent to interfere the function of a public safety answering point. It will also prohibit a person from taking certain actions that interferes with the functioning off a public safety answering point. The authorized penalties for certain violations will be imprisonment of up to 5 years or a fine not exceeding \$25,000 or both.

The Fire/EMS Coalition supports Senate Bill 496 as it will be beneficial to all Fire/EMS workers when responding to medical or fire calls. There are many interference issues that Maryland first responders face when responding to calls. The interferences can be life altering and life threatening when individuals prevent our first responders from doing their job. The Coalition supports this bill as it will provide a deterrent and punishment for those who intentionally get in the way of our firefighters and EMS workers.

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.