

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

REPRESENTING THE VOLUNTEER FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMS PERSONNEL OF MARYLAND.



Robert P. Phillips

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SB431: Workers' Compensation – Occupational Disease Presumption – Long COVID

My name is Robert Phillips, I am the Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland State Firefighters Association (MSFA). The MSFA represents the 25,000 plus volunteer Fire/EMS and Rescue first responders across the state.

I wish to present testimony in favor of Senate Bill 431: Workers' Compensation – Occupational Disease Presumption – Long COVID

The MSFA fully supports the adoption of this bill. We have seen first hand the effects that COVID 19 had on our first responders. Many had long term issues with it when they were first affected. Now two years or so finished with the original virus, they are still seeing effects from it with lingering issues. The virus is passed but the effects are still here and causing ongoing health issues. These issues need to be addressed with the same care and concern as before and should be treated as a work related injury with the appropriate benefits.

I thank the committee for their time and attention to this important bill and ask that you vote favorable on Senate Bill 431.

I will now be glad to answer any questions, or my contact information is listed above and welcome any further inquiries you might have.

