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Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 23, 2025

Dear Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chairman Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Samuel Joseph Lawrence, and I am actually Senator McKay's Chief of Staff. But today, I am not a Chief of Staff, but a former Frederick Police Dispatcher and I am advocating for SB396. A very brief history about me: I joined the Frederick Police Department in September 2017 in their Police Academy but around November/December of the same year I became a Dispatcher in their department. I actually had Senator Folden as one of my many instructors and then, when I moved to Dispatch, I would dispatch him to calls for service if I was working during his shift.

In my brief time as a dispatcher, I was blessed to have only a few calls that stuck in my mind or bothered me. I would say I was a very white cloud as most calls were routine thankfully. But there are a few that I still think about and wonder about, like when there were children that ran away or went missing. I didn't experience anything too horrendous but everyone I worked with were long time veterans of their work and experienced calls that involved things like shootings, domestic violence, or sexual assaults. I'm not a hero and never was, I just did the best I could when I was there to help Frederick Police. But my coworkers and those officers WERE and ARE heroes and they taught me so much about life and the world. They deserve the help that this bill can provide for their families as well as themselves. I left that department when I was very young and wished I had been able to do more and have always felt some sort of shame that I wasn't able to be better. So, if there is one thing I can do for them, it's to advocate for the Frederick Police Dispatchers and every dispatcher across Maryland.

Thank you for hearing my story.

Sincerely,

Samuel Joseph Lawrence
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