



March 6, 2025

SB759 – Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Public Safety Employee Retirement Income

Dear Chairman and Distinguished Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

The Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 759 – **Income Tax - Subtractions Modifications – Public Safety Employee Retirement Income**

This Bill will tremendously show 911 Specialists how much the State of Maryland appreciates their service and what they still have to offer the State, even in retirement. 911 Specialists are honored to be a part of the First Responder community and enactment of this Bill will solidify their role in public safety. As a dedicated and concerned member of our 911 community, I believe it is imperative that we recognize and honor the essential role that 9-1-1 specialists play in the safety and well-being of all Marylanders. Enactment of this Bill is an important step toward acknowledging the sacrifices made by first responders, and extending that recognition to 9-1-1 specialists would be a meaningful and much-needed gesture. By including 9-1-1 specialists in the Hometown Heroes Act, Maryland would send a clear message that we value and appreciate the indispensable role they play in our public safety system. This bill will go a long way towards keeping our members in Maryland once they retire by providing an increase to the allowed amount that can be subtracted from the federal adjusted gross income for a retired 911 Specialist. A **FAVORABLE** vote on HB590 would clearly show the support of the State of Maryland to its Public Safety retirees and further incentivize them to maintain their residence in the State of Maryland. This Bill will also be an added benefit and useful tool for the recruitment and retention of 911 Specialists. I urge you to advocate for a **FAVORABLE** vote of HB 590 and ensure that 9-1-1 specialists are granted the recognition and resources they deserve and continue to thrive in Maryland.

On behalf of the all the 911 Specialists of the Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and we ask for your **FAVORABLE** vote on **SB759 – Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Public Safety Employee Retirement Income**.

Respectfully,
Kasia Gatchalian
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Treasurer, BCFPE 4883

