



**STEPHAN G. FUGATE**

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Baltimore, Maryland

March 26, 2025

The Honorable C.T. Wilson  
Chairman, Economic Matters Committee  
231 Taylor Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Committee members,

My name is Steve Fugate, I'm a retired Captain of the Baltimore City Fire Department and I am also Vice-President of the Baltimore City Retired Fire Officers and Fire Fighters Association. During my forty-year career in very busy stations on the west side of Baltimore, I was injured several times and exposed to environmental hazards resulting in heart and lung disease. I am not complaining, it was all a part of my job. The consequences as I age, however, are significant and I receive what I believe to be life-sustaining medications that I might not be able to afford if SB 306 is adopted by this Body. It was my honor to serve as a Senate Page in 1971 so I am familiar with the legislative process and I appreciate your indulgence after crossover. Finally, I'm not wearing my uniform to try to impress you; you're all smarter than that. I'm wearing my uniform to put a face on the men and women across Maryland that will be deeply harmed by the legislation before you.

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