## **MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION**

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel -a 501(c)3 Organization



Legislative Committee 17 State Circle Annapolis MD, 21401 Chair: Robert Phillips Email: rfcchief48@gmail.com Cell: 443-205-5030 Office: 410-974-2222

## HB 421: Public Safety – 9–1–1 Trust Fund – 9–8–8 Suicide Prevention Hotline

My name is Chief Robert Phillips, and I am the Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland State Firefighters Association (MSFA)

I wish to present testimony in support of House Bill 421: Public Safety 9–1–1 Trust Fund 9–8–8 Suicide Prevention Hotline

The MSFA is in support of this bill. This bill will allow for the 9-1-1 funds to be used in a very narrow and specific situation. They can be used for the interconnection with the 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention Hot-line. This will allow for a smoother transfer of calls from one agency right now might involve the hanging up and calling another number.

When a person is in need of help or assistance, it is very important that they get to the person who can make a difference with as little delay or effort as possible and we believe this bill will go a long way to make that happen.

The MSFA asks that you return a FAVORABLE vote on HB 421

Thank you and I would be glad to answer any questions you might have

Respecfully:

Robert Rillins