MIKE MCKAY Legislative District 1 Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties

Judicial Proceedings Committee Executive Nominations Committee

Joint Committees

Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review

Children, Youth, and Families Program Open Space and Agricultural

Land Preservation

January 24, 2025

RE: Fire/EMS Coalition Support for HB444



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Dear Chairman Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Committee,

The Fire/EMS Coalition would like to express their support for House Bill 444: **Criminal Law – Interference with Critical Infrastructure or a Public Safety Answering Point – Penalties.** This bill will prohibit an individual from taking certain actions with the intent to deny access to an authorized user or interrupt or impair the functioning of critical infrastructure or a public safety answering point. This bill will also prohibit an individual from taking certain actions to deny access to an authorized user, interrupt, or impair the functioning of critical infrastructure/public safety answering point. There will be authorizations for penalties for the aforementioned violations.

The Fire/EMS Coalition supports House Bill 444 as it will penalized those who are obstructing the carrying out of first responders' duties.

Sincerely,

Senator Mike McKay Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties

<u>Voting Organizations</u>: Maryland Fire Chief's Association (MFCA) Maryland State Firefighter's Association (MSFA) State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Maryland Fire Rescue Institute (MFRI) Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System (MIEMMS) Metro Fire Chief's Association

Professional Firefighters of Maryland

Our Mission Statement

The Maryland Fire/EMS Coalition unites Republicans and Democrats in support of fire/emergency services legislation that benefit all first responders. Becoming a member does not require taking positions on legislation; rather Coalition members are asked to offer support in a way that best benefits fire/emergency services in their respective Legislative Districts.