

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



Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 416
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3565 • 301-858-3565
800-492-7122 Ext. 3565
Mike.McKay@senate.state.md.us

Judicial Proceedings Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Cumberland Office
100N Mechanic Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502
240-362-7040

Joint Committees
Administrative, Executive,
and Legislative Review
Children, Youth, and Families
Program Open Space and Agricultural
Land Preservation

Williamsport Office
2N Conococheque Street
Williamsport Town Hall
Williamsport, Maryland

January 24, 2025

RE: Fire/EMS Coalition Support for HB445

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

The Fire/EMS Coalition would like to express their support for House/Senate Bill 445/81:

Criminal Law – Interference with a Public Safety Answering Point – Penalties. The bill will prohibit a person from taking certain actions with the intent to interfere the function of a public safety answering point. It will also prohibit a person from taking certain actions that interferes with the functioning off a public safety answering point. The authorized penalties for certain violations will be imprisonment of up to 5 years or a fine not exceeding \$25,000 or both.

The Fire/EMS Coalition supports House Bill 445 as it will be beneficial to all Fire/EMS workers when responding to medical or fire calls. There are many interference issues that Maryland first responders face when responding to calls. The interferences can be life altering and life threatening when individuals prevent our first responders from doing their job. The Coalition supports this bill as it will provide a deterrent and punishment for those who intentionally get in the way of our firefighters and EMS workers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike McKay".

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

Voting Organizations:

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.