



BALTIMORE COUNTY
FEDERATION OF
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
AFT / AFL - CIO / BCFPE Local #4883

John Ripley
BCFPE President
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January 30, 2025

RE: Favorable – HB 590: 911 Center Specialists added to the Home Town Heroes Act

Honorable Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

First, I want to thank Delegates Vogel and Griffith for their diligent work on HB 590.

My name is Christopher Morgan and I am the Executive Vice President of the Baltimore County Federations of Public Employees who represents approximately 1600 Baltimore County Employees including 250 active Baltimore County 911 Center Employees. I want to convey my support for House Bill 590. In 2022, 911 Dispatchers/Operators were correctly reclassified as First Responder/Emergency Services employees. These men and women who serve the citizens of the state of Maryland do an immensely difficult job for 12 -16 hours a day, 5 or more days a week for 25 or more years. These men and women are providing a very important and essential service to the citizens of Maryland. These 911 Dispatchers/Operators are experiencing every emergency call for service with the victims of these emergencies and should be considered the "TRUE" first responders.

Because of this, I strongly urge you to support HB 590.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Morgan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher Morgan
Executive Vice President
Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees Local #4883
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February 6, 2025

HB590 - 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 House Bill 590 -
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 HB590

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'KG' followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line extending to the right.

Kasia Gatchalian
BCFPE Treasurer

Sent from my iPad