
ROBERT G. CASSILLY
Harford County Executive



ROBERT S. McCORD
Director of Administration

February 13, 2026

The Honorable Brian Feldman
Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 159 – Emergency Medical Services – Vehicles and Ambulances – Required Supplies, Reviews, and Complaints

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

I write on behalf of the citizens of Harford County to respectfully express opposition to Senate Bill 159.

Harford County is fully committed to maintaining high-quality emergency medical services and ensuring that residents receive timely, professional, and effective emergency care. Our county works closely with career and volunteer EMS partners to continually evaluate performance, improve outcomes, and respond to community needs. While the intent of SB 159 is understandable, the legislation creates new state-mandated operational requirements that impose additional administrative and financial burdens on local governments without providing corresponding funding or flexibility.

SB 159 establishes mandatory statewide requirements for equipment standards, quarterly performance reviews, and formal complaint systems for EMS operations. Many counties already maintain robust oversight systems tailored to local operational models. Codifying prescriptive statewide mandates removes the ability of local jurisdictions to manage EMS services in a manner that best reflects local staffing structures, volunteer participation, and community needs.

The bill also creates a series of new compliance and reporting obligations that will require additional staff time, administrative tracking, and potentially new systems or processes. These operational requirements represent an unfunded mandate at a time when counties are already facing increasing fiscal pressures and workforce challenges, particularly in

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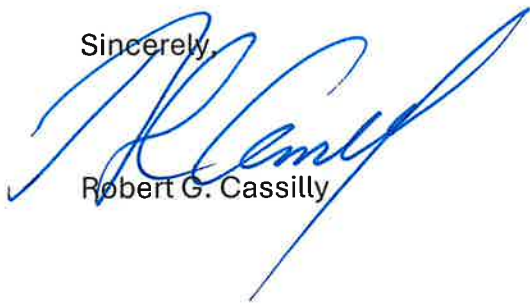
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emergency services. Any new state requirements that increase costs should be accompanied by meaningful state funding or grant support to avoid shifting financial burdens directly onto local taxpayers.

Local elected officials and emergency service leaders are best positioned to evaluate performance and implement improvements based on local data, geography, and operational realities. A one-size-fits-all statewide approach risks duplicating existing oversight efforts while adding layers of bureaucracy that may not improve service delivery.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 159.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Cassilly