



Career Fire Fighters Association of Frederick County, MD Inc.
International Association of Fire Fighters Local 3666
Affiliated with:
Maryland State Professional Fire Fighters Association and The Central Maryland Labor Council / AFL-CIO



COMMENTS IN SUPPORT

SB 212: Higher Education - Nonresident Tuition - Exemption for Dependents of State or Local Public Safety Employees (Maryland Fallen Heroes Tuition Benefits Act)

Sponsored by: Senator Corderman

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Hearing 1/28 at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the President of the Career Firefighters Association of Frederick County, Maryland (IAFF Local 3666) – Frederick County’s public employee organization that represents the over 600 men and women employed with the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue. We are in support of SB 212 and I, as well as other organizations like mine, have submitted written testimony as well.

This legislation would offer a new death benefit for Maryland’s public safety professionals who perish in the line of duty.

Losing Battalion Chief Josh Laird in the line of duty was a devastating blow to our department, our community, and most importantly, his family. We have proudly supported Sara and the girls every step of the way and we view this as our next way we can look after them.

Josh gave his life protecting the people of Frederick County, embodying the bravery and selflessness that defines the fire service. His sacrifice should not be forgotten, and his family should not have to struggle for the support they deserve.

Josh’s children lost their father that day. While they may not reside in Maryland, their loss is no less significant, and their future should not be any less secure. The State of Maryland has long recognized the importance of honoring fallen first responders by providing in-state tuition benefits to their dependents. This should not be limited by geography—Josh laid down his life for this state, and Maryland should stand by his family in return.

Providing in-state tuition benefits to Josh’s children is not just an act of gratitude; it is a commitment to those who put their lives on the line for Marylanders every day. We urge our leaders to ensure that the families of our fallen heroes, regardless of where they live, are given every opportunity to succeed. Josh Laird gave everything for Maryland—it’s time for Maryland to give back to his family.