



TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 212

*Higher Education — Nonresident Tuition — Exemption for Dependents of State or Local Public Safety Employees
(Maryland Fallen Heroes Tuition Benefits Act)*

Position: Favorable

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 212, the *Maryland Fallen Heroes Tuition Benefits Act*. I am submitting this testimony in support of this important legislation.

SB 212 would provide a tuition benefit for financially dependent children of State or local public safety employees who die as a result of, or in the course of, performing their duties by exempting those dependents from paying out-of-state or out-of-county tuition rates at Maryland public institutions of higher education.

This bill honors the extraordinary service and sacrifice of Maryland's public safety professionals — including law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMS personnel, correctional officers, and others — by extending meaningful support to their families in a tangible way. Educational costs are a significant burden for many families, and offering this exemption helps ensure that the children of those who gave their lives in service to our communities are not further disadvantaged.

While the fiscal note indicates that only a small number of students are expected to qualify under the provisions of this bill, the impact for those individuals and their families is profound. The measure demonstrates Maryland's respect and gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice made by these public servants and aligns with long-standing state traditions of supporting survivors of fallen heroes.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 212.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted respectfully,

Jeffrey Buddle, President
Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland
International Association of Fire Fighters, Local A-19, AFL-CIO

The membership of the Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland includes 23 IAFF local affiliates from the following jurisdictions:

Federal: National Capital Federal Fire Fighters

State: Baltimore / Washington International Airport

Local: Annapolis City, Allegany County, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City (2 affiliates), Baltimore County, Carroll County, Cecil County, Charles County, Cumberland City, Frederick County, Garrett County, Hagerstown, Howard County, Montgomery County, Ocean City, Prince Georges County, Queen Annes County, Salisbury, Talbot County, Worcester County