

MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

*Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel
-a 501(c)3 Organization*



Legislative Committee

17 State Circle
Annapolis MD, 21401
Joel McCrea, PP
Email: jmccrea@msfa.org
Cell: 410-592-7759
Office: 410-974-2222

SB 439: Employment Discrimination – Fire and Rescue Public Safety Employees – Use of Medical Cannabis

I am Joel McCrea, member of the Legislative Committee and Past President of the Maryland State Firefighters Association (“MSFA”), which represents the interests of the volunteer fire, rescue, and emergency medical services of Maryland.

I wish to present testimony in opposition of **Senate Bill 439: Employment Discrimination – Fire and Rescue Public Safety Employees – Use of Medical Cannabis**

To be clear, the bill does not directly apply to the volunteer service; however, this bill can and most likely will affect the volunteer service. This is why the MSFA is in opposition of this bill.

First, testing positive for cannabis could be cause for suspension or revocation of a provider’s medical license. Further, a commercial driver’s license is not required to drive fire apparatus, however for drivers with a commercial driver’s license, testing positive for cannabis could also be cause for losing that license.

Second, determining if a provider is impaired by cannabis is purely subjective. There is no clear direction on how this is to be handled. Many volunteer companies do not have the same resources available to them, as would be available in the paid system; to make a definitive determination that an individual’s impairment is due to the use of cannabis. The responsibility to make that determination would place a considerable burden on the volunteer company leadership.

Thank you for considering our concerns and, for the reasons that we have stated, we respectfully request an unfavorable vote.

Respectfully,

Joel McCrea