

02/19/2026

11 BLADEN STREET, ANNAPOLIS MARYLAND 21401

THE MARYLAND STATE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

THE HONORABLE PAMELA BEIDLE

SUBJECT:

**SENATE BILL 439: EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION – FIRE AND RESCUE PUBLIC SAFETY
EMPLOYEES – USE OF MEDICAL CANNABIS**

CHAIRWOMAN BEIDLE & MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE,

I am Alexander Harlan. I've been a member of the Jacksonville Volunteer Fire Company in Baltimore County for over a decade. I've responded to over 1,000 emergencies and have held numerous leadership positions such as Membership Committee Chair and Treasurer. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to SB 439.

While the bill does not directly apply to the volunteer service, it will most likely affect volunteer fire companies- many state in their bylaws that they will adhere to their municipal paid department's standard operating procedures.

The Problem:

Determining if a provider is impaired by cannabis is purely subjective and there is no clear guidance on how to handle the matter. Most volunteer companies do not have the same resources as paid departments to determine that an individual's impairment is because of cannabis. This responsibility would place a considerable burden on the volunteer company leadership.

I believe this bill should be reconsidered once there is a precise and accessible device or means of measuring cannabis impairment.

I appreciate the committee's consideration of my testimony and I strongly urge an unfavorable report.

Respectfully,

Alexander Harlan

The views expressed in this testimony are my own and not the official position of the Jacksonville Volunteer Fire Company, The Baltimore County Volunteer Firefighters Association, or Baltimore County Fire Department