

# From the Desk of Congressman David Trone

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February 19, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Wells  
Chair, Government, Labor, & Elections  
Committee  
142 Lowe House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Kenneth Kerr  
Vice Chair, Government, Labor, & Elections  
Committee  
142 Lowe House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Members of the Committee,

I write in support of *House Bill 532 - Employment Standards - Firefighters - Payment of Wages and Payroll Information* because our firefighters run toward danger when everyone else is running away. They deserve not only our heartfelt gratitude, but they also deserve fair compensation.

For too long, firefighters in certain jurisdictions have operated under a 48-hour work week standard that exceeds what is reasonable given the physical and emotional demands of the job. *Senate Bill 445* prospectively lowers that standard to 42 hours in Montgomery, Frederick, and Howard Counties and Baltimore City, while preserving existing collective bargaining agreements and allowing local governments to plan responsibly for implementation. Importantly, this also increases competition with jurisdictions in surrounding states, ensuring that we maintain necessary recruitment and retention rates.

Our firefighters work long shifts and shoulder enormous emotional strain. Fair compensation and reasonable work standards are not luxuries—they are required to recruit, retain, and sustain the highly trained professionals who protect our communities. When we ask firefighters to risk everything for us, the least we can do is ensure they and their families are treated with respect and compensated fairly for their time and sacrifice.

I urge your support of *House Bill 532 - Employment Standards - Firefighters - Payment of Wages and Payroll Information*.

Respectfully,



David Trone  
Former Member of Congress