

MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

-a 501(c)(3) organization

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel



Legislative Committee

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HB886: Certified Peer Recovery Specialists - Coverage Under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance and Workgroup on Certification

My name is Chief Robert Phillips, and I am the Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland State Firefighters Association (MSFA)

I wish to present testimony in FAVOR of **House Bill 886: Certified Peer Recovery Specialists - Coverage Under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance and Workgroup on Certification**

The MSFA is fully in favor of this bill. This bill will require health care insurers to pay for services provided in any setting by a certified peer recovery specialist who is certified by the Maryland Addiction and behavioral-health professionals certification board or a successor entity. Many of our members would prefer to meet with these peer support specialists over some other professionals and are more at ease talking with them. This bill will require that they be compensated for the valuable work they provide.

The MSFA asks that you return a **FAVORABLE** report on **HB886**.

Thank you and I would be glad to answer any questions you might have.

Respectfully

Robert Phillips

