
ROBERT G. CASSILLY
Harford County Executive



ROBERT S. McCORD
Director of Administration

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall
Chair, House Health Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 579 – Counties – No-Cost Preventive Cancer Screenings for
Volunteer and Retired Volunteer Firefighters

Dear Chairwoman Bagnall and Committee Members,

On behalf of the citizens of Harford County, I write to express our support for Senate Bill 579 in recognition of the physical toll and long-term health risks associated with the selfless service of volunteer firefighters, particularly the heightened risk of occupational cancer faced by those who serve on the front lines of emergency response.

Volunteer firefighters are the backbone of emergency services in many Maryland communities, including Harford County. These men and women place themselves in harm's way to protect the lives and property of others, often exposing themselves to dangerous toxins and carcinogens in the process. The long-term health consequences of that service are increasingly well documented, and it is essential that we take meaningful steps to address them.

Earlier in 2026, Harford County and the Cassilly Administration were proud to announce a new health initiative: the Volunteer Firefighter Cancer Screening Program. Understanding that early detection is the most effective tool in saving lives, this initiative will provide free preventative screenings for a range of occupational cancers, ensuring that financial barriers never stand in the way of a volunteer firefighter receiving critical medical screening and care.

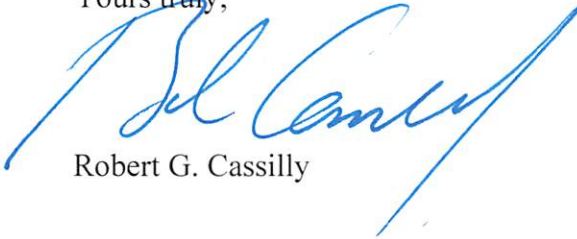
Our volunteers answer the call on our community's worst days. It is our moral obligation to ensure that we are looking out for their health long after the fire is out. By providing access to preventative screenings and encouraging early detection, we can better protect the long-term health of the individuals who dedicate themselves to protecting our communities.

The Honorable Heather Bagnall
Senate Bill 579 Support Letter
March 27, 2026
Page 2

Harford County believes that supporting the health and well-being of our volunteer firefighters is not only the right thing to do, it is essential to sustaining the emergency response system that so many Maryland communities rely upon. Senate Bill 579 represents an important step in recognizing the risks these volunteers face and ensuring that they receive the support they deserve.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 579.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. G. Cassilly", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Robert G. Cassilly