

January 29, 2026

RE: Favorable – HB 13: 911 Center Specialists added to the Home Town Heroes Act

Honorable Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

First, I want to thank Delegates Vogel, Reilly and Feldmark for their diligent work on HB 13.

My name is Christopher Morgan and I am the Executive Vice President of the Baltimore County Federations of Public Employees who represents approximately 1600 Baltimore County Employees including 250 active Baltimore County 911 Center Employees. I want to convey my support for House Bill 13. In 2022, 911 Dispatchers/Operators were correctly reclassified as First Responder/Emergency Services employees. These men and women who serve the citizens of the state of Maryland do an immensely difficult job for 12 -16 hours a day, 5 or more days a week for 25 or more years. These men and women are providing a very important and essential service to the citizens of Maryland. These 911 Dispatchers/Operators are experiencing every emergency call for service with the victims of these emergencies and should be considered the “TRUE” first responders.

The passing of HB 13 would be an additional tool for the State of Maryland to keep first responder retirees living in Maryland after their retirement. Many 911 Dispatchers/Operators have significant others who are also first responders and to have both of them covered under the Home Town Heroes Act could very well keep them living in Maryland throughout their retirement.

I believe the passing of HB 13 would guarantee that these hardworking 911 Dispatchers/Operators would get one step closer to truly being considered First Responders and it would show that the state of Maryland thanks them for their hard work.

Because of this, I strongly urge you to support HB 13.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher Morgan
Executive Vice President
Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees Local #4883
1801 Glen Keith Blvd Suite #100
Towson, Maryland 21286
410-296-1875