



BALTIMORE COUNTY
FEDERATION OF
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
AFT / AFL - CIO / BCFPE Local #4883

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**Written Testimony Submitted to the
Maryland House Ways and Means Committee
HB 13**

**Income Tax– Subtraction Modification – Public Safety Employment Retirement Income
(Supporting Our 9-1-1 Specialists Act)**

January 29, 2026

SUPPORT / FAVORABLE

Good afternoon Honorable Members of the House Ways and Means Committee.

My name is John Ripley, President of Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees (BCFPE Local #4883) representing Baltimore County 9-1-1 Center Specialist.

I respectfully call on this committee to issue a favorable report to **HB 13**, recognizing 9-1-1 Center Specialist as True First Responders by adding them to the Hometown Heroes Act.

Over the years I have witnessed these hard-working men and women perform very stressful, highly technical, ever changing and demanding public safety job. As a 9-1-1 Center Specialist they have demonstrated countless acts of sacrifice and commitment to Public Safety. 9-1-1 Center Specialist also commonly support communities that they live and serve in other wide-ranging ways.

The State has recognizes the work 9-1-1 Center Specialist by correctly re-classifying them as "First Responders." Now let's correctly add 9-1-1 Specialist to the Hometown Heroes Act. I urge you to support **HB 13**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

President John Ripley

Baltimore County Federation of Public Employees Local #4883