



# HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

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WILLIAM ANUSZEWSKI, INTERIM FIRE CHIEF • CALVIN BALL, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Delegate Corderman-

The Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Service is writing in support of HB 1485/1496 -Medicaid Reimbursement, for the purpose of altering certain services provided to Maryland Medical Assistance Program recipients by emergency service transporters that are required to be reimbursed by the Maryland Department of Health; and generally relating to the reimbursement of services provided by emergency service transporters.

These Bills will enable the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services to obtain financial reimbursement for the cost of providing medically necessary services to the citizens of Howard County and surrounding jurisdictions not only for medically necessary transports, but will allow the service to recoup cost associated with non-transports services that make up 30% of our call volume. Emergency medical calls account for a large percentage of the total number of emergency services incidents within Howard County. For example, in 2019, there were over 38,000 incidents in Howard County and over 70% (27,000) of those calls were for Emergency Medical Service (EMS) related Incidents. The need for EMS continues to grow. Like many other localities, we continue to seek ways to fund these services without relying solely on local tax revenue or donations to local volunteer agencies.

Staffing an ambulance requires a significant investment in personnel, equipment, training and time. This investment is causing an affordability crisis in the Fire and EMS Service across the nation.

These bills, if advanced through the House, represents a partisan effort to provide parity among our EMS service. We appreciate the support and endorse the efforts of Delegate Paul Corderman for advocating on behalf of the EMS services by securing funding that will continue the lifesaving work that is provided the citizens of Howard County and the great State of Maryland.

Respectfully Submitted

William Anuszewski  
Interim Fire Chief, Howard County Md.