



Washington County Volunteer  
Fire and Rescue Association

1501 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Hagerstown, MD 21742  
March 2, 2020

**To: The members of the Health and Government Operations Committee - Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass Chair, Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair**

**re: House Bill 1485 - Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Emergency Service Transporters – Reimbursement - removing [while transporting the Program recipient to a facility]**

Members:

I wish to express my support and the support of the Washington County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association with House Bill 1485 based upon the following facts and observations:

- ❖ Washington County EMS is still provided by 26 individual non-profit Fire and EMS companies
- ❖ Ems calls in Washington County are 85% of our total responses
- ❖ According to Community Rescue Service, our Largest EMS provider, they ran 17,900 calls last year at an average cost of \$365.00 per call
- ❖ 6 % of those calls did not result in a transport which they were unable to bill that amounted to \$392,010.00 in unrecoverable expenses for last year and we have 5 other EMS companies some whose no transport calls run as high as 10%
- ❖ Due to the opiod crisis many of our calls are drug or overdose related
  - We may transport a patient more than once in a 24 hour period but can only bill for one transport per day
  - After reviving the patient they refuse transport and thus are included in the above amount yet a service was provided.

This bill will allow us to recoup some of our expenses which are now draining our member companies' ability to function and keep responding to our citizen's needs, here in Washington County,.

Therefore I ask you to - Please vote favorably for this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted:

Dale Fishack  
President