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February 24, 2023

Delegate C.T. Wilson, Chair
Delegate, Brian M. Crosby, Vice Chair
Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building, Room 231
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 335 Workman's Compensation – Occupational Disease Presumptions – First Responders

Position: **Support**

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice-Chair Crosby, and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association represents over 1000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state. We write in **support of HB 335** which would provide that a first responder who is diagnosed by a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist with post-traumatic stress disorder is presumed, under certain circumstances, to have an occupational disease that was suffered in the line of duty and is compensable under workers' compensation law. This ensures closure of a gap that creates an inequality in coverage and would allow these effected first responders to get the essential care they need.

For the reasons noted above the Maryland Psychological Association asks for a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 335.

Thank you for considering our comments on HB 335. If we can be of any further assistance as the House Economic Matters Committee considers this bill, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage at mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Resnik, Psy.D.

Rebecca Resnick, Psy.D.
President

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.

R. Patrick Savage, Jr., Ph.D.
Chair, MPA Legislative Committee

cc: Richard Bloch, Esq., Counsel for Maryland Psychological Association
Barbara Brocato & Dan Shattuck, MPA Government Affairs