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February 20, 2023

Senator Melony Griffith, Chair  
Senator Katherine Klausmeier, Vice Chair  
Finance Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SB 406 Workman's Compensation – Occupational Disease Presumptions – First Responders**

Position: **Support**

Dear Chair Griffith, Vice-Chair Klausmeier and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Psychological Association represents over 1000 doctoral level psychologists throughout the state. We write in **support of SB 406**, 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 SB 406.

Thank you for considering our comments on SB 406. If we can be of any further assistance as the Senate – Finance Committee considers this bill, please do not hesitate to contact MPA's Legislative Chair, Dr. Pat Savage at [mpalegislativcommittee@gmail.com](mailto: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