

To Mr. Bill Wesley:

The Kentucky Chapter of Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) representing 911 professionals across the Commonwealth would like to express our full support of legislation BR169 being introduced by Representative Wesley.

This bill will provide resources and training for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and work-induced stress for telecommunicators across the Commonwealth.

There is no doubt that telecommunicators/911 professionals not only in Kentucky, but across the United States experience a great amount of job-related stress. They don't directly witness the tragic or dangerous events, but the emotions related to the trauma occurring on the other end of the phone put telecommunicators at risk for developing a host of such mental and emotional health problems as anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), burnout, and depression.

We encourage our telecommunicators/911 professionals to be responsible for their mental health so we need to give them the tools to do so. It is time that we take care of the first of the first responders.

Sincerely,

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