



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

SENATE BILL 86 – SUPPORT

21 January 2020

Senator Paul G. Pinsky and Members of the
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Military Coalition to offer our **support for Senate Bill 86**.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a 501(c)4 social welfare organization, incorporated in the State of Maryland. We are an alliance of sixteen organizations representing over 100,000 members, about one fourth of Maryland's Veterans. Our coalition partners and signatories are listed on the following page.

Our mission is to advocate in the Maryland general assembly and throughout Maryland state government in order to improve the benefits and quality of life programs for Veterans, Service members, and their Families.

We believe that **Senate Bill 86** advances our goal of supporting measures that positively contribute to our Veterans' behavioral health and to suicide prevention measures, which recreational therapy programs involving hunting and fishing have been conclusively proven to. In fact, the Maryland Recreational Licenses Donation Program enables Veterans to engage in these very activities!

Significantly, this legislation notes that hunting and fishing are valued parts of our cultural and social heritage, play an important role in our economy, and reflect rights that should be enshrined in law. It is worth noting too that these activities also provide substantial funding for Maryland conservation efforts.

The Maryland Military Coalition strongly supports Senate Bill 86 and respectfully requests a favorable report on this important legislation.

Thank you for supporting Maryland Veterans!

Sincerely,

Brian T. Smith
Vice President
BTSmith1184@outlook.com

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

James P. Monahan
Air Force Sergeants Association

Stacy P. May
American Military Society

Lynn A. Nash
Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service

Wilbert B. Forbes
Disabled American Veterans

Sheldon Goldberg
Distinguished Flying Cross Association

Pleasala J. Collins
Fleet Reserve Association

Evan A. Buttrick
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Steve L. Bloodgood
Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association

Harvey Kaplan
Military Officers Association of America

Charles Egbert
Military Order of the Purple Heart

Mervyn Rice
National Association for Black Veterans

Michael P. Hays
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

Christian Andreasen
NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Catherine L. McGraw
Society of Military Widows

Arthur L. Cooper
The Retired Enlisted Association

Thomas C. Williams
Veterans of Foreign Wars