



## MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

### HOUSE BILL 371 - SUPPORT

**House Bill 371 - Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Military Retirement Income  
(Defense Workforce Opportunity Act)  
House Ways and Means Committee  
February 21, 2020**

Madame Chair and members of the Committee, my name is John May, and I am here today to represent the Maryland Military Coalition.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a **nonprofit, all volunteer, Veterans advocacy group** representing the interests of Maryland Veterans, Service Members, their families and survivors. The Coalition consists of 17 uniformed services and veterans' organizations, listed on the following page, with over 100,000 members. We represent about one-fourth of Maryland's Veterans, Service Members, and their families.

#### **The Maryland Military Coalition strongly supports HB371.**

The military retired pay subtraction issue has been taken up by this committee before and has a long history with many thoughtful arguments in its favor over the years. HB371 proposes a reasonable incremental strategy to help the state realize the benefits of creating a more competitive stance for building our defense industry workforce.

It is clear from the recent study by Towson University that the state needs many more qualified, cleared professional workers in the defense industry. For the younger military retiree seeking a second career and a welcoming employer and what comes next, his or her decision on location will likely be made primarily as a "business" decision rather than a "feel good" decision based on the beauty of the area. The tax status of well-earned retired pay is a major factor in this decision.

In a high employment, competitive national economy, it only makes sense for our state to offer meaningful incentives to attract the type of professionals our employers seek, particularly defense industry employers.

While the ultimate goal of the Coalition is 100% subtraction of uniformed services retired pay, HB371 is a positive step in that direction under the current fiscal realities that face the state.

The Maryland Military Coalition supports HB371, and sincerely thanks you for this opportunity to express that support before the Committee today.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. May". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

John P. May, CMSgt USAF (Ret)  
2420 Fox Creek Lane  
Davidsonville, MD 21035

(Signature page follows)

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**Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition**

  
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**Air Force Sergeants Association**

  
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**American Military Society**

  
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**Commissioned Officers Association of the  
US Public Health Service**

  
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**Disabled American Veterans**

  
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**Distinguished Flying Cross Association**

  
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**Fleet Reserve Association**

  
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**Jewish War Veterans of the USA**

  
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**Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'  
Association**

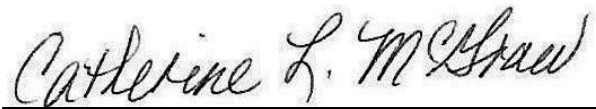
  
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**Military Officers Association of America**

  
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**Military Order of the Purple Heart**

  
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**National Association for Black Veterans**

  
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**Naval Enlisted Reserve Association**

  
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**NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers**

  
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**Society of Military Widows**

  
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**The Retired Enlisted Association**

  
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**Veterans of Foreign Wars**