



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

SENATE BILL 25 – 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 25**.

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 25 advances our goal of enhancing the services offered by the Recreational Licenses Donation Program. This bill also directly relates to our goal of supporting measures that positively contribute to our Veterans' behavioral health and help prevent Veterans suicide, which recreational therapy programs, such as hunting and fishing, have been conclusively proven to.

Significantly, this legislation removes a sunset provision in current law, thus extending this valuable program without a limiting date. If passed and enacted, it will ensure this program is available to future generations of qualifying Service Members and Veterans.

The Maryland Military Coalition strongly supports Senate Bill 25 and respectfully requests a favorable report on this important legislation.

Thank you for supporting Maryland Veterans!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. T. Smith", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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