



## MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

### SENATE BILL 90 – 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 90**.

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 90** advances our goal of enhancing the services offered by the Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program. This bill also directly relates to our goal of supporting measures that positively contribute to our Veterans' behavioral health and to suicide prevention measures, as service dogs, support dogs, and therapy horses have been conclusively proven to.

Significantly, this legislation restates the definitions of "service dog" and "support dog", while adding the important category of "therapy horse". These definitions will greatly assist efforts to determine qualified nonprofit partners eligible to receive funding from the program.

**The Maryland Military Coalition strongly supports Senate Bill 90 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 "Brian T. Smith", with a long horizontal flourish 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