



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

HOUSE BILL 597 – SUPPORT

4 February 2020

Delegate Maggie McIntosh and Members of the
Appropriations Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairwoman McIntosh and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Military Coalition to offer our **support for House Bill 597**.

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 **House Bill 597** advances our goal of supporting measures that honor those that are serving, or have served, as well as their families.

This important legislation ensures that the spouse or financially dependent child of an active duty Service member or an honorably discharged Veteran, who uses the GI Bill benefits of the Service member or Veteran, is and will remain entitled to in-state tuition rates, even if the Service member or Veteran moves from the state.

The Maryland Military Coalition believes we must honor the countless sacrifices of our Veterans and Service members by ensuring that their educational benefits, one of their most valuable earned benefits, when transferred to their authorized family members afford those recipients the ongoing ability to conduct their studies at the in-state tuition rates.

The Maryland Military Coalition strongly supports House Bill 597 and respectfully requests a favorable report on this important legislation.

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