



## MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

### HOUSE BILL 12 – SUPPORT

22 January 2020

Delegate Shane E. Pendergrass and Members of the  
Health and Government Operations Committee  
House Office Building, Room 241  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairwoman Pendergrass and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Military Coalition to offer our **support for House Bill 12**.

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 12** advances our goal of ensuring that any state program of benefits, rights, or privileges applicable for Veterans should explicitly include members of all seven of the Uniformed Services.

Significantly, this legislation updates a portion of existing law to ensure that a Veteran of any of the seven Uniformed Services is eligible for a Home for Veterans supervised by the Department of Veterans Affairs, essentially changing the eligibility wording from "Armed Forces" to "Uniformed Services."

**The Maryland Military Coalition strongly supports House Bill 12 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".

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