



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

SENATE BILL 341 – SUPPORT

27 January 2020

Chairman Paul G. Pinsky and Members of the
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 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 341**.

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 341** 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 Senate Bill 341 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", is written over a horizontal line.

Brian T. Smith
Vice President
BTSmith1184@outlook.com

cc:

Senator Melony Griffith
The American Legion, Department of Maryland