



## MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

### SENATE BILL 86 - SUPPORT

February 20, 2020

Delegate Kumar P. Barve and Members of the  
House Environment and Transportation Committee  
House Office Building, Room 251  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Military Coalition to offer our **support for Senate Bill 86**.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a **nonprofit, all volunteer, Veterans advocacy group** representing the interests of Maryland Veterans, Service Members, their families and survivors. The Coalition consists of 17 uniformed services and veterans' organizations, listed on the following page, with over 100,000 members. We represent about one-fourth of Maryland's Veterans.

Our mission is to advocate in the Maryland General Assembly and throughout Maryland state government to improve the benefits and quality of life programs for Veterans, Service Members, and their families.

We believe that **Senate Bill 86** advances our goal of supporting measures that positively contribute to Veterans' behavioral health and to suicide prevention measures, which recreational therapy programs involving hunting and fishing have been conclusively proven to benefit. In fact, the Maryland Recreational Licenses Donation Program enables Veterans to engage in these very activities!

Significantly, this legislation notes that hunting and fishing are valued parts of our cultural and social heritage, play an important role in our economy, and reflect rights that should be enshrined in law. It is worth noting too that these activities also provide substantial funding for Maryland conservation efforts.

**The Maryland Military Coalition strongly supports Senate Bill 86 and respectfully requests a favorable report on this important legislation.**

Thank you for supporting Maryland Veterans!

Respectfully submitted,

(Signature page follows)

For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact John May at  
[jpaulmay@aol.com](mailto:jpaulmay@aol.com) or by calling (410) 212-1539

**Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition**

*James P. Monahan*

**Air Force Sergeants Association**

*Stacy P. May*

**American Military Society**

*Lynn A. Yash*

**Commissioned Officers Association of the  
US Public Health Service**

*Wilbert B. Forbes*

**Disabled American Veterans**

*Seldon H. Fredberg*

**Distinguished Flying Cross Association**

*Phasala 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**

*Marlene Rice*

**National Association for Black Veterans**

*Michael P. Hays*

**Naval Enlisted Reserve Association**

*Christian Andreasen*

**NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers**

*Catherine L. McBraw*

**Society of Military Widows**

*Arthur L. Cooper*

**The Retired Enlisted Association**

*Thomas C. Williams*

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**