



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

SENATE BILL 142 - SUPPORT

Senate Bill 142 – Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund House Environment and Transportation Committee February 20, 2020

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, Service Members, and their families.

The Maryland Military Coalition **supports Senate Bill 142.**

As you know, this legislation renames the Recreational License Donation Fund to the "Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund." It also allows the fund to provide grants to nonprofit organizations that provide recreational hunting or fishing opportunities to Gold Star families, disabled Veterans, disabled members of the armed forces of the United States, or permanently disabled persons who require the use of a wheelchair.

This recreational therapy program would greatly complement the amazing work of the La Plata, Maryland-based nonprofit Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing which is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs notes that recreational therapy program outcomes include improved physical health and capability to accomplish daily life activities, as well as improved mental health and relationships with others. These recreational therapy programs are positive factors in enhancing participants' behavioral health and directly contribute to suicide prevention efforts.

The Maryland Military Coalition believes that our disabled Veterans, their families, and particularly our fallen Warriors' surviving family members, are living testaments to the ideals of honor, service, and sacrifice.

Consequently, we must support measures that help our Veterans and their families live their lives with dignity and fulfillment in our great state. It is important to have programs and services that support their ability to lead productive independent lives.

We respectfully request a favorable report for Senate Bill 142.

For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact John May at
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Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition


Air Force Sergeants Association


American Military Society


Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service


Disabled American Veterans


Distinguished Flying Cross Association



Fleet Reserve Association


Jewish War Veterans of the USA


Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association

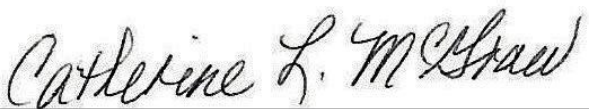

Military Officers Association of America


Military Order of the Purple Heart


National Association for Black Veterans


Naval Enlisted Reserve Association


NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers


Society of Military Widows


The Retired Enlisted Association


Veterans of Foreign Wars