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MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VETERANS CAUCUS

TO: Shane E. Pendergrass, Chairwoman
Health and Government Operations

FROM: Maryland Veterans Caucus

DATE: March 10, 2020

RE: **HB 1515 – Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services
Matching Grant Program for Service Members and
Veterans - Establishment**

The Maryland Veterans Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on **HB 1515 – Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services Matching Grant Program for Service Members and Veterans - Establishment**

This bill was sponsored by the **Delegate Pat Young** for the purpose of establishing the Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services Matching Grant Program for Service Members and Veterans; providing for the purpose of the Program; requiring the Maryland Department of Health to administer the Program; requiring the Program to award certain grants to nonprofit organizations to establish and expand certain community behavioral health programs; establishing a certain eligibility requirement; requiring an eligible nonprofit organization to secure certain contributions for the proposal; etc.

The Veterans Caucus mission is to study, develop and promote legislation designed to improve the quality of life for veterans in the State of Maryland in the areas of employment, education, economic, training and health, and to assist the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs in achieving its mission and goals, on behalf of veterans in the State. There are approximately 471,200 veterans living in the State of Maryland.

The Veterans Caucus Legislative Committee favorably recommends strong support of **HB 1515**, and the full caucus voted to support this bill.

Thank you,

Delegate C.T. Wilson
House Chair, Veterans Caucus

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To study, develop, and promote legislation designed to improve the quality of life for veterans in the State of Maryland in the areas of benefits, employment, education, economics, training, and health, and to assist the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs in achieving its mission and goals, on behalf of all veterans in the State.