



Randallstown

Po Box 731 Randallstown, MD 21133

January 14, 2021

RE: HB-371 State Lottery - Instant Ticket Lottery Machines - Fraternal Organizations (ITLMs for Homeless Veterans Act)

Contact: Anaya Smith, Political Action Chair Randallstown NAACP, AnayaSmith@aol.com

The Randallstown NAACP requests a favorable report on HB371.

This bill sponsored by Delegate Pat Young will effectively end homelessness for veterans through the securing of permanent funding for veteran homelessness programs. This legislation would build on the collaboration of existing veterans' programs and could fund up to 3 million annually addressing current and past housing issues that plague our veterans. Recently, over 200 veterans required housing services and 585 were left without housing relief by the end of 2017.

May it be known the mission of the NAACP is to secure equal rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and wellbeing of all persons. Veterans of color disproportionately experience homelessness in Maryland. Roughly 45% of all homeless veterans are African American or Hispanic.

The majority of veterans that experience homelessness often suffer from mental illness, alcohol and/or substance abuse or other mental and health related disorders. These disorders are directly correlated to veteran homelessness which are impacted by lack of funding.

HB371 will address the lack of funding and allow Maryland to unequivocally support its veterans. Randallstown NAACP requests with urgency a favorable report for HB371.

