



Montgomery County Chapter
P.O. Box 7564
Gaithersburg, MD 20898-9996

Committee Chair Atterberry and Members of the Ways & Means Committee;

My name is David Peterson. I am a retired Captain of the NOAA Corps and I am offering testimony on **HB461** in my capacity as Immediate Past President of the Montgomery County Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. MOAA chapters are local affiliates of the national organization and are advocates for the uniformed services community at the state and local levels.

For more than two decades, MOAA chapters, and other service-related organizations in the state, have been advocating for legislative action to help make the state a more desirable retirement destination for second-career service retirees. The defense and cybersecurity sectors of the state's economy, in particular, would be the beneficiaries of such help, as a significant portion of the job vacancies therein require high security clearances...and retired uniformed service personnel are a rich source for such job candidates. The vexing issue is getting the second career folks to give Maryland due consideration.

The legislative help meted out by the General Assembly over time has taken the form of an incrementally-increasing income tax subtraction for military retired pay. When fairly evaluated against the situation in other states, Maryland cannot help but come up short. Other states close aboard to our borders offer a much more competitive outlook for second career seekers.

The objective of our advocacy is to encourage the General Assembly to enact a 100% subtraction, but there is some reluctance to go that far, despite all the good arguments in its favor that have been presented in previous sessions. **The Montgomery County Chapter will, and does, support any legislation which advances the income tax subtraction for military retired pay.** Delegate Rogers' bill, HB461, makes the next logical incremental step toward the ultimate 100% objective. As you consider the many similar bills on this topic in this session, please let HB461 advance in the legislative process by giving it a **FAVORABLE** report out of the Ways & Means Committee.

Respectfully,

Captain David H. Peterson, NOAA (Ret)
7612 Anamosa Way, Derwood, MD 20855 District 19