



HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

House Bill 372

**Higher Education - Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship -
Altering Name of Scholarship**

February 14, 2023

Favorable

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on House Bill 372. The bill alters the name of the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship to the “Douglas J. J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship.”

Currently, veterans and active-duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, and members of the reserve or Maryland National Guard who were activated as a result of the conflicts, are eligible for the scholarships, as are their children, stepchildren, and spouses.

The University System of Maryland (USM) cannot think of a more fitting recognition of former Maryland State Senator Doug Peters than to name this significant and meaningful scholarship after him. Douglas J. J. Peters is a former Maryland State Senator from 2007 to 2021 where he served as Majority Leader and Chair of Capital Budget. He was a Prince George's County Councilmember from 2002 to 2006 and Bowie City Councilmember from 1998 to 2002. He served as a Captain in the United States Army Reserve (1988-1998), served in Operation Desert Storm and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. Peters is a Past Commander of the Bowie American Legion and VFW Posts He is a 1985 graduate from the University of Maryland College Park Business School majoring in Finance and 1990 graduate of the University of Baltimore with a Masters of Business Administration.

As a state senator for 14 years, Senator Peters distinguished himself as an ardent supporter of the University System of Maryland. That support has culminated in his continued service as a valued member of the USM Board of Regents where he sits on several committees including the Committee on Education Policy & Student Life and the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare.

For his service to the Nation and Maryland, we respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 372.



About the University System of Maryland

The University System of Maryland (USM)—one system made up of 12 institutions, three regional centers, and a central office—awards 8 out of every 10 bachelor’s degrees in the State of Maryland. The USM is governed by a Board of Regents, comprised of 21 members from diverse professional and personal backgrounds. The chancellor, Dr. Jay Perman, oversees and manages the operations of USM. However, each constituent institution is run by its own president who has authority over that university. Each of USM’s 12 institutions has a distinct and unique approach to the mission of educating students and promoting the economic, intellectual, and cultural growth of its surrounding community. These institutions are located throughout the state, from western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, with the flagship campus in the Washington suburbs. The USM includes Historically Black Colleges and Universities, comprehensive institutions, research universities, and the country’s largest public online institution.

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