

House Appropriations Committee
March 26, 2024

**SB 1178 - Higher Education - Douglas J. J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan
and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship - Repeal of Service Terminal Date**

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **SB 1178**. This bill repeals the service terminal date regarding eligibility for the Douglas J.J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iran Conflicts Scholarship (Scholarship).

Maryland's community colleges support the expansion of this Scholarship as it removes a potential barrier for veterans wishing to pursue higher education. By allowing veterans who served in these conflicts to access educational funding, regardless of when they completed their service, the State is supporting these individuals and investing in their transition to successful civilian life.

This legislation is a tangible way to show appreciation for these individuals' dedication and commitment to our country. Community colleges stand ready to work with the State to support veterans in obtaining higher education, offering a pathway to meaningful employment and successful civilian careers. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** vote on **SB 1178**.

Please contact Brad Phillips (bphillips@mdacc.org) or Drew Jabin (djabin@mdacc.org) with questions.