

**STATE OF MARYLAND
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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

February 9, 2024

The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair, Appropriations Committee
Room 121 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 580 - Time to Serve Act of 2024 - Letter of Support

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

On behalf of Governor Moore, I respectfully ask the Committee for a favorable report on House Bill 580, the Time to Serve Act of 2024.

House Bill 580 protects State employees from using personal leave to meet requirements for the National Guard, military reserves, or disaster services. The bill allows State employees who serve in the National Guard or military reserves to use up to 30 days for training or service duty. It also allows State employees to use up to 30 days for disaster service leave if approved by their managers.

The intent of the bill acknowledges the dual way in which these employees are serving the State in both a civilian and military role. It ensures that the affected employees do not have to sacrifice valuable personal leave while they are serving in their military or disaster service roles. By increasing the number of days available for this type of leave, the bill prevents employees from sacrificing their personal time to meet their military service obligations. It is a small lift with big impact and honors 2024 as the Year for Military Families.

This bill is a simple and direct way to support our State employees who serve in State government and military service. In view of the light lift of this legislation and in honor of our service members, I respectfully ask the committee for a favorable report on House Bill 580.

Sincerely,

June Chung
Deputy Legislative Officer