



March 6, 2024

The Honorable Pam Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building – 2 East  
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

**SUBJECT: Support for HB 580/SB 477 – Time to Serve Act**

Dear Chair Beidle, Chair Barnes, and Committee Members,

The Committee for Montgomery (CfM) apologizes for missing the deadline to submit written testimony on HB 580/SB 477 but wanted to express our support for this very important piece of legislation. CfM is a coalition of leaders representing a broad cross-section of Montgomery County business, labor, education, civic, arts, and community-based organizations advocating on issues of importance to Montgomery County and the State.

HB 580/SB 477 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 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.

CfM believes that preserving and strengthening Montgomery County's diverse and dynamic culture and its economic strength for Maryland merits the adoption of legislation that supports our State employees who serve in State government and military service.

The Committee for Montgomery (CfM) urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 580/SB 477.

Sincerely yours,

DocuSigned by:  
  
Shannon Babe Thomas  
Chair

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Kenneth Nelson  
Issues Chair

