



**Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of the Secretary**

**WES MOORE
GOVERNOR**

**ARUNA MILLER
LT. GOVERNOR**

**ANTHONY C. WOODS
SECRETARY**

February 13, 2024

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 639 - Property Tax Exemption - Disabled Veterans - Service Connected Disability

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (“MDVA”) supports Senate Bill SB 639 - Property Tax Exemption - Disabled Veterans - Service Connected Disability.

The MDVA believes it is important to recognize and honor the service of all veterans - including those who may have become disabled while serving in uniform. We acknowledge that veterans might have been awarded a disability compensation rating of less than 100%, but continue to feel a significant impact from their service-connected disabilities. Easing the tax burden for these veterans shows them that their sacrifices are not forgotten by their community.

The MDVA supports lowering the eligibility threshold from 100% to 80% service-connected disability for veterans to receive this property tax exemption.

Thank you for your attention to this important proposal and I ask the committee for a favorable report on SB 639.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Woods". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Anthony C. Woods
Secretary