



# MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

*Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy*

February 29, 2024

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman  
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: **Request for FAVORABLE Report** – SB0707 – Armed Forces – Support of Military Families and Addition of Space Force

Dear Chairman Feldman and distinguished members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition (MMC) and as its Legislative Director, I write to recommend a FAVORABLE report by the Committee on SB0707 – *Armed Forces – Support of Military Families and Addition of Space Force* sponsored by Senator Michael Jackson. This legislation adds the Space Force to certain provisions of Maryland's code related to the armed forces and includes the military spouse under the rights and protections provided in the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq.).

Adding the Space Force to Maryland's code aligns it with 10 U.S. Code § 101 (4) – Definitions, which states that the "term 'armed forces' means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, **Space Force**, and Coast Guard." By including "military spouse" in Article – Public Safety, Section 13-704.1 aligns the Maryland Code with federal law and supports the Moore-Miller Administration's Year of the Military Families.

The Maryland Military Coalition **supports SB0707** and asks the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee for a **FAVORABLE report**. These changes will update the Maryland Code.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups, representing over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers, and survivors.

We want to thank Senator Michael Jackson for his continuing commitment to the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

David L. Dragics  
COL USA (Ret)  
Legislative Director

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

James P. Monahan  
Air Force Sergeants Association

Elwood R. Raphael Gray  
American Minority Veterans Research Project

Lynda A. Gask  
Commissioned Officers Association of the  
US Public Health Service

Sheldon Freedberg  
Distinguished Flying Cross Association

Sheldon Freedberg  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Emmett R. Robert  
Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Charles E. Spitzer  
Military Order of the Purple Heart

M. L. Messer  
National Association for Black Veterans

Christian Andreasen  
NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Catherine L. McGraw  
Society of Military Widows

M. Blackwell  
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Steve P. May  
American Military Society

W. W. Allen  
Association of the United States Navy

Wilbur B. Fisher  
Disabled American Veterans

Phyllis J. Collins  
Fleet Reserve Association

Steve L. Blocker  
Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'  
Association

Robert J. Linton  
Military Officers Association of America

E. J. ...  
Montford Point Marines of America

Michael P. Hays  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

John S. ...  
Reserve Organization of America

E. J. ...  
National Active and Retired Federal Employees  
Veterans Affairs Directorate, NARFE MD