



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

**WES MOORE
GOVERNOR**

**ARUNA MILLER
LT. GOVERNOR**

**ANTHONY C. WOODS
SECRETARY**

February 21, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 715 - Fishing and Hunting Licenses and Trout Stamps - Complimentary Licenses and Stamp Exemption - Veterans Determined to be Unemployable.

Dear Chairman Korman and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs supports HB 715 - Fishing and Hunting Licenses and Trout Stamps - Complimentary Licenses and Stamp Exemption - Veterans Determined to be Unemployable. We were pleased to see HB 715 introduced in this session, and wholeheartedly support allowing unemployable veterans to receive complimentary fishing and hunting licenses.

Studies show that getting outside to engage in outdoor activities, such as fishing and hunting, can be beneficial in treating mental health issues common to veterans, including post-traumatic stress, depression, and anxiety. This type of outdoor therapy will help unemployable veterans reconnect with nature and find peace outside in our beautiful State.

We respectfully request a favorable report on HB 715. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Anthony C. Woods
Secretary

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