



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 8, 2024

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**RE: Senate Bill 615 – General Provisions – Commemorative Days – Maryland Veterans
Suicide Awareness Day – Letter of Support with Amendment**

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendment for Senate Bill (SB) 615 – General Provisions – Commemorative Days – Maryland Veterans Suicide Awareness Day.

SB 615 requires the Governor to declare July 11 as Maryland Veterans Suicide Awareness Day every year. The Department supports the intention of this bill to bring attention to and provide awareness for the issues leading to veteran suicides and work to destigmatize mental health support. The Department recommends an amendment to the bill to align with National Military and Veterans Suicide Awareness Day, which takes place on September 22nd each year¹.

If you have any further questions, please contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary

¹ [H.RES. 674](#)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 615
(First Reader File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 2, in line 8, strike “JULY 11” and substitute “SEPTEMBER 22”

Rationale:

This change will align the state of Maryland with the National Military and Veterans Suicide Awareness Day.