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February 15, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee House Office Building, Room 241 6 Bladen St Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk,

On behalf of the majority of the Women Legislators of Maryland members, we are writing to support **HB431 Department of Veterans Affairs** – **Renaming and Deputy Secretary of Military Family Policy and Programs**. This legislation has been identified as one of our priorities for the 2024 legislative session.

This bill requires the renaming of the Department of Veterans Affairs to the Department of Veterans and Military Families. This legislation renames the Department of Veterans Affairs to the Department of Veterans and Military Families. The Women Legislators of Maryland fully support our veterans and their families and, therefore, offer full support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Delegate Edith J. Patterson

President