



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB431

Testimony by Delegate Andrew Pruski

February 6, 2024 – Health and Government Operations Committee

What the Bill Does:

This bill is designed to rename the Department of Veteran Affairs to become the Department of Veterans and Military Families. It also requires the Secretary to appoint a Deputy Secretary of Military Family Policy and Programs to manage related initiatives to promote Maryland's goal of being the best state for veterans and their families.

Why the Bill is Important:

The renaming of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs to the Department of Veterans and Military Families makes the MDVA more inclusive of the military families that are currently supported and aided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The addition of the Deputy Secretary of Military Family Policy and Programs shall direct policy will direct issues connecting to current military and veteran's families, providing them with the additional care and resources they deserve. This position will allow for the families of veterans to be supported attentively and thoroughly.

Why the Committee Should Vote Favorably:

HB431 furthers Maryland's goal to be the best state for veterans and military families. The Department of Veterans and Military Families and newly appointed Deputy Secretary of Military Policy and Programs will provide superior assistance towards the families of veterans to achieve this goal. **On behalf of Maryland's veterans and families, I urge a favorable report on HB431.**