

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and members of this committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to address you regarding Senate Bill 48.

My name is Joseph Pruden and I am addressing you behalf of the nearly 81,000 members of the American Legion Family in 157 posts throughout the State of Maryland.

As proud veterans and advocates for our military and veteran communities, we strongly believe this legislation is a critical step forward in assuring additional, deserved recognition all who have served in the uniformed services.

The addition of the “Veteran” designation on Maryland Drivers Licenses has afforded veterans unexpected access to resources, assistance, comradery, recognition and benefits.

This designation on additional licenses can only ensure that more veterans will become aware of benefits and services available to them.

We believe the additional knowledge and recognition this legislation will bring to veterans and to the community is immeasurable.

We thank Senator Bryan Simonaire for his efforts and for sponsoring this bill.

We urge your favorable consideration of this legislation.

Thank you.