



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

January 29, 2025

The Honorable Brian Feldman
The Honorable Cheryl Kagan
Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Seate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: **Request for FAVORABLE Report-SB0137** – Education – High School
Diplomas - Veterans of Armed Conflict

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

The Maryland Military Coalition recommends a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on SB0137 – Education – High School Diplomas – Veterans of Armed Conflict, sponsored by Senator Bryan W. Simonaire.

This bill would authorize the granting of a diploma to those individuals who left high school before graduating to enlist in the military during an armed conflict authorized by the President of the United States or Congress, and who were honorably discharged. This bill recognizes the service of those who set aside their education to serve during an armed conflict. Those service members who served honorably and returned to their community obtained training, valuable skills, and leadership opportunities while serving their country. They deserve a high school diploma that recognizes their sacrifice and service and will enable them to make potential future contributions to their communities.

The MMC **strongly supports SB0137** and asks the Committee for a **FAVORABLE report**.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of 22 prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups, representing over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers, and survivors. Visit our website at <https://www.mdmilcoalition.org/>.

We want to thank Senator Simonaire for his commitment to our veterans and the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

Jayson L. Spiegel
LTC, Army Reserve (Ret.)
President

Member Organizations of the Maryland Military Coalition

Air Force Sergeants Association

American Military Society

American Minority Veterans Research Project

Association of the United States Navy

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

Disabled American Veterans

Fleet Reserve Association of Annapolis

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A

Maryland Air National Guard Retirees' Association

Maryland National Association of Retired Federal Employees Veterans Committee

Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Military Officers Association of America

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Military Order of the World Wars

Montford Point Marines of America

National Association of Black Veterans

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Platoon 22

Reserve Organization of America

Society of Military Widows

Veterans of Foreign Wars