



**Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families
Office of the Secretary**

WES MOORE
GOVERNOR

ARUNA MILLER
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ANTHONY C. WOODS
SECRETARY

**Senate Bill 309- Department of Veterans and Military Families -
Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy Program - Alterations
SUPPORT**

February 21, 2025

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

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF) is committed to leading veterans and their families through life's transitions, making Maryland the best state for the military-connected communities. DVMF fulfills its mission through five core programs: the Service and Benefits Program, which helps veterans access federal, state, and local earned benefits; Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, offering assisted living and skilled nursing care; the Cemetery and Memorial Program, providing dignified resting places and maintaining memorials honoring Maryland's veterans; the Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy Program, fostering connection and awareness; and the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund, offering financial assistance to veterans and their families in need. These programs reflect Maryland's commitment to honoring and empowering its military-connected community.

The Department respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill 309, which adds service members and their families to the statutory purpose of our Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy Program, as well as a new reporting requirement to assess communications methods used in support of the Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Woods".

Anthony C. Woods
Secretary

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