



## MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

*Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy*

March 24, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk  
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee  
240 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report** – SB0309 – Department of Veterans and Military Families – Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy Program – Alterations

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and distinguished members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition (MMC), I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **SB0309 – Department of Veterans and Military Families – Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy Program – Alterations**, sponsored by Senator Bryan Simonaire. This bill requires the Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy Program in the Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF) to expand certain services to include service members and their families.

With the renaming and increased mission of the DVMF, SB0309 aligns and requires the Department's Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy Program to now include service members and their families along with veterans. In addition, the annual reporting requirement of the DVMF is expanded to inform and provide the Governor and the General Assembly with insight into not only what the DVMF is communicating in its outreach and advocacy efforts to veterans and service members and their families but also how effective the Program's methods of communication are.

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports SB0309** and asks for a **FAVORABLE report** from the Health and Government Operations Committee. Making veterans and service members and their families more aware of the services, benefits, and assistance available to them from the State and federal government and community organizations is a fundamental part of the DVMF's mission.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of 22 prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups. It represents over

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150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers and survivors. Visit our website at <https://mdmilcoalition.org/>.

We want to thank Senator Simonaire for sponsoring this legislation and supporting the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David L. Dragics". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

David L. Dragics  
COL (Ret), U.S. Army  
Legislative Director



## **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

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

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

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Platoon 22

Reserve Organization of America

Society of Military Widows

Veterans of Foreign Wars