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March 12, 2025

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

Re: SB 085 (Crossover) - Braille Flag Memorial

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk:

Thank you for the opportunity to enter this written testimony in support of Senate Bill 085 and the proposed Braille Flag Memorials to be placed at the State's veterans' cemeteries.

Blind Industries and Services of Maryland ("BISM") is the largest employer of blind and low vision individuals in the State of Maryland. Our mission is to support the blind and low vision community by providing stable and rewarding career opportunities, innovative rehabilitation programs, economic and personal independence, and appropriate resources for training and education.

As a proud partner with Maryland Works in the Maryland State Preferred Provider Program, BISM is keenly aware of the challenges and barriers faced by individuals with disabilities. We believe that every accommodation and increase in accessibility made available to these communities is a step in the right direction. A uniquely designed and made Braille flag is a valuable outreach to the blind community and will allow all - blind and sighted - to appreciate the American flag in a new and different way and show respect and concern for blind and low vision people.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to communicate with me.

Sincerely,

Blind Industries and Services of Maryland

By: 

Thomas D. Kohn  
Vice President and Counsel