



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

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GOVERNOR
ARUNA MILLER
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SECRETARY

**House Bill 720 - Higher Education - Douglas J. J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts
Scholarship - Repeal of Termination Date
SUPPORT**

February 3, 2026

The Honorable Ben Barnes
Appropriations Committee
120 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Kaiser, 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 military-connected communities. Our department supports House Bill 720 - Higher Education - Douglas J. J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship - Repeal of Termination Date.

The Douglas J.J. Peters Veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship (VAIC) is designed to provide financial assistance to United States armed forces personnel who served in the Afghanistan or Iraq Conflicts, and their son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, or spouse attending a Maryland postsecondary institution. House Bill 720 simply repeals the scholarship termination date, which DVMF wholeheartedly supports. This bill has no fiscal impact.

DVMF hopes this vital scholarship will continue to provide financial support, stability, and continuity for Maryland's military families for years to come.

Thank you for your time, and I respectfully ask the committee for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward C. Rothstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ed Rothstein
Secretary