



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

**WES MOORE**  
*GOVERNOR*  
**ARUNA MILLER**  
*LT. GOVERNOR*  
**ED ROTHSTEIN**  
*SECRETARY*

**House Bill 721 - Uniformed Services Spouses Act  
SUPPORT**

March 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 721 - Uniformed Services Spouses Act.

HB 721 expands priority registration, resources, and support at public institutions of higher education, to spouses of active service members and veterans. This bill is a critical step in ensuring that Maryland remains a military-friendly state, easing the educational transition for military-connected families who already face unique challenges due to frequent relocations.

Expanding eligibility to include spouses acknowledges the reality that military service impacts not just the service member or veteran, but the entire family. This inclusion of military spouses aligns with Maryland's commitment to a whole-of-government approach to serving veterans and their families, ensuring that no one is left behind. This bill has no fiscal impact for the Department.

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