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Legislative District 28
Charles County

Ways and Means Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Gaming

K-12 Education

Chair, Southern Maryland
House Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of
HB 0721 / SB 0243 - Uniformed Services Spouses Act**

Good afternoon, Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Kaiser and Members of Appropriations Committee. For the record, I am Delegate Edith Patterson, sponsor of HB 0721/ SB 0243 - Uniformed Services Spouses Act.

Members of the uniformed services have served our country with dedication, and their ability to do so depends in large part on the strength of their support systems. While our nation provides important resources, the most constant and reliable support often comes from their spouses. Uniformed services spouses carry tremendous responsibility, supporting their families and, in turn, our national readiness.

Maryland has taken steps to recognize these contributions, including extending certain benefits like property tax exemption. Still, there is more we can do to better support these spouses.

House Bill 0721 builds on existing law by extending key benefits currently available to service members and veterans to their spouses. These include priority college registration, access to educational resources and scholarships, hiring preferences, and employment testing credits.

Uniformed service spouses deserve recognition that matches their sacrifice and commitment. Expanding educational and employment opportunities helps provide stability for military families and strengthens our workforce. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration,

Edith J. Patterson
Charles County, District 28