



WES MOORE
GOVERNOR
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

STATE OF MARYLAND
MILITARY DEPARTMENT
FIFTH REGIMENT ARMORY
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201-2288

JANEEN L. BIRCKHEAD
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

February 17, 2026

Chairman Ben Barnes
House Appropriations Committee
120 Taylor House Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Barnes and Members of The Committee:

The Maryland Military Department respectfully requests a favorable report for House Bill 720 – Higher Education – Douglas J. J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship – Repeal of Termination Date.

The Maryland Military Department strongly supports this legislation as a critical investment in the men and women who answered the call to serve during two of our nation's most demanding conflicts. Repealing the termination date ensures that eligible members of the Maryland National Guard and the Maryland Defense Force can access the educational benefits they earned through honorable service in Afghanistan and Iraq. Education is a cornerstone of our commitment to taking care of our Soldiers and Airmen — not only during their service, but as they build their futures and contribute to the communities of Maryland. Allowing this scholarship to expire would remove a meaningful and hard-earned benefit from those who sacrificed the most.

The Maryland Military Department urges the Committee to act favorably on this bill and send a clear message that Maryland honors its commitment to those who served.

The point of contact for this letter is Dr. Tony Campbell, reachable at (443) 956-0108, or tony.campbell1@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janeen L. Birckhead".

Janeen L. Birckhead
Major General, Maryland National Guard
The Adjutant General