



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

January 26, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report** – SB0007 – Higher Education – Douglas J. J. Peters
Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship – Repeal of Termination
Date

Dear Chair Feldman and distinguished members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition¹ (MMC), I write to request a
FAVORABLE Report by the Committee on **SB0007 – Higher Education – Douglas J. J. Peters
Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship – Repeal of Termination Date**
sponsored by Senator Bryan Simonaire. This bill repeals the prohibition of awarding the initial
scholarship after June 30, 2030, or renewing it after the same date.

The MMC supports the elimination of the termination date of this scholarship, which provides
significant financial assistance to Maryland residents who are veterans, active-duty members,
or their spouses and children, and who qualify for the award. It supplements federal veterans'
education benefits, thereby reducing the financial burden on the awardee. Elimination of the
termination date signifies Maryland's commitment to those residents who served in the
Afghanistan and Iraq Conflict.

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports SB0007** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report
from the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization
comprised of prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups. It represents over
150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and
their families, caregivers and survivors. Visit our website at <https://mdmilcoalition.org/>.

¹ See attached list of member organizations.

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We want to thank Senator Simonaire for sponsoring this legislation and supporting the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David L. Dragics". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'D' and 'D'.

David L. Dragics
COL (Ret), U.S. Army
Legislative Director



Member Organizations of the Maryland Military Coalition

Air Force Sergeants Association

American Military Society

American Minority Veterans Research Project

Association of the United States Navy

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

Disabled American Veterans

Fleet Reserve Association of Annapolis

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A

Maryland Air National Guard Retirees' Association

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Military Officers Association of America

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Military Order of the World Wars

Montford Point Marines of America

National Association of Black Veterans

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Platoon 22

Reserve Organization of America

Society of Military Widows

Veterans of Foreign Wars