



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

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**House Bill 278 - Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging
(The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)
SUPPORT - Favorable with Amendments**

February 5, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall
Chair, Health Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, 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 proudly supports the Department of Aging's House Bill 278 - Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act).

DVMF looks forward to collaborating with the Department of Aging to integrate the needs of veterans into their multisector Longevity Ready Maryland Plan. Our veterans face unique challenges as they age, including service-connected disabilities and chronic conditions like toxic exposure or PTSD that require a specialized, trauma-informed healthcare infrastructure. By integrating the needs of veterans into the plan and adding a veteran to the Commission on Aging, Maryland will build a more inclusive system. This addition ensures that the "lived experience" of Maryland's 360,000 veterans and their families is present at the highest levels of policy and advocacy.

The Longevity Ready Maryland Act ensures that those who served our country can age with purpose and financial security right here in the state they call home. DVMF stands ready to partner with the Department of Aging to build this longevity ecosystem. Thank you for your time, and I respectfully ask the committee for a favorable report with amendments on HB 278.

Sincerely,

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

Ed Rothstein
Acting Secretary