



THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Maryland
Legislative Commission

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**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 506
HIGHER EDUCATION – NONRESIDENT TUITION EXEMPTION for
MILITARY PERSONNEL, SPOUSES and DEPENDENTS – ALTERATIONS**

Madam Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Jackson and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, The American Legion Department of Maryland representing over 48,000 active duty, veteran members soundly believe House Bill 506 is a viable legislative initiative benefitting our servicemen and women and their family dependents, their future employers and our State.

HB 506 if passed and signed into law would eliminate a significant burden for dependent spouses and children. For instance, normal or In-State tuition costs for nearby Anne Arundel Community College are **Four Thousand Two Hundred Eighty dollars annually (\$4,280.00)** annually. For a student deemed to be in an Out-of-State category, tuition is **Twelve Thousand, Six Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$12,650.00)** Fees such as these would practically eliminate a student from attending or require significant and. Perhaps, threatening dangerous sacrifices in order to attend, especially on a single household income at, in some situations, historically low military salaries. (Data from *Fiscal and Policy Note* Source: Maryland Association of Community Colleges)

This measure is advantageous to the employer market. Once graduated or certificated the beneficiaries of HB 506 would broaden the pool of prospective prospects because they are better educated and have advanced skills, especially over someone who has not taken advantage of higher education options.

There may be some who will state this bill would be too costly for educational facilities. In the same *Fiscal and Policy Note* it notes that “the almost 1,200 spouses and dependent children of active-duty service members, approximately 100 (less than 10%) were considered out-of-state residents for tuition purposes.”

We will conclude by respectfully requesting for a favorable report on HB 506 and commend Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith and the bipartisan group of sponsors supporting this bill.

Yours, respectfully

Patrick Guibao

Patrick J. Guibao

Chair

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