PAT YOUNG Legislative District 44B Baltimore County

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Appropriations Committee

Chair

House Chair Joint Committee on the Management of Public Funds

Chair Baltimore County Delegation

> Vice Chair Veterans Caucus



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Oversight Subcommittee on Personnel THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 18th, 2020

HB 596

Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship - Graduate Students and other Alterations

Honorable Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Jackson and Members of the Committee:

I am happy to introduce to you House Bill 596 Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship – Graduate Students and other Alterations. This bill removes some of the restrictive qualifications for this scholarship program.

The Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship is available to those service members who have served in the two title conflicts. Currently, the only veterans who may receive the award are those who are enrolled in undergraduate degree. This bill would expand that to include graduate degree programs as well. It also removes the requirement to file an application for state or federal aid. In other words, the FAFSA is not required to apply for and receive this scholarship.

HB 596 will expand access to higher education for our Afghanistan and Iraq war veterans. Something that is only right.

Thank you for your time and consideration of HB 596.

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Pat Young, 44B