



THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Maryland
Legislative Commission

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STATEMENT IN SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 596
VETERANS of the AFGHANISTAN and IRQ CONFLICTS –
GRADUATE STUDENTS and OTHER ALTERATIONS

Madam Chair McIntosh and members of the Maryland House Appropriations Committee,

The lengthy conflicts of U.S. involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq now over 18 years have prolonged the educational opportunities for those who served during this conflict period. Under House Bill 596 these opportunities would continue for a decade.

The American Legion Department of Maryland hails this measure to insure those Maryland residents and veterans who have served and survived this massive conflict will, through higher education, grow academically to be another “best and brightest” generation.

HB 596 also covers undergraduates and two-year or community college students who plan to progress into a Maryland four-year college or university meeting tuition, mandatory fees and housing. Funding for the scholarship program is as provided in the annual State budget as noted in the *Fiscal and Policy Note* accompanying this measure.

We believe HB 496 provides a sound investment for future leaders in our State and are pleased this bill includes dependent spouses and children.

The American Legion representing over 48,000 active duty men and women, veterans who have served in all wars and conflicts and their families, all who reside in Maryland, believe HB 596 is a sound bill and we respectfully request a favorable report on this measure from the Appropriations Committee. Thank you.

Yours respectfully,

Patrick Guibao

Patrick J. Guibao
Chair
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