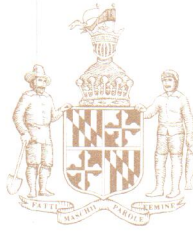


JOHNNY RAY SALLING
Legislative District 6
Baltimore County



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 416
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3587 · 301-858-3587
800-492-7122 Ext. 3587
JohnnyRay.Salling@senate.state.md.us

Budget and Taxation Committee

Health and Human Services Subcommittee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 5, 2020

SB 417 / HB 257: Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members:

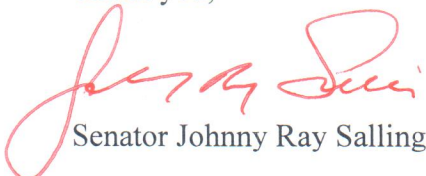
Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in favor of Senate Bill 417 which will allow veterans with less than a 100% disability receive a property tax credit. This bill is a cross-file (HB 257) with Delegate Crosby. I would like to thank Delegate Crosby for allowing me to cross-file on this bill to help many of the veterans in our state.

Current law states that to be eligible for a property tax exemption, a veteran must have a 100% service related disability. A veteran that is 100% disabled and married with 1 child will receive according to the US Department of Veterans Affairs a monthly amount of \$3,352.41. That is only \$40,228.92 a year to support his whole family. Some may argue that that is generous enough, but that is not where the problem lays. The problem is when a veteran is not 100% disabled. At 90% disability, a veteran is taking home only \$2,098.62, significantly less. That is a \$1,253.79 difference per month and \$15,045.48 difference per year. When you add in all of life's other needs and expenses and then include a high property tax rate; it all just becomes too much of a burden for our veterans.

This bill will help veterans by keeping the current law in place and allowing for two more categories. The first category will allow a county to grant a 25% property tax credit for veterans that have a 50%-74% service connected disability. The second category will allow a local to grant a 50% property tax credit for veterans that have a 75%-99% service connected disability.

As a former member of the US Army, I believe this bill will offer greater assistance to disabled members of our military that are prevented by their injuries from having gainful employment, and respectfully request a favorable report.

Thank you,


Senator Johnny Ray Salling