

THE AMERICAN LEGION Department of Maryland Legislative Commission

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STATEMENT OF SUPPORT ON BEHALF OF SENATE BILL 84

Senator Pinsky, Chair, Senator Kagan, Vice Chair and Distinguished Members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

The American Legion Department of Maryland representing 136 Posts in the 23 State Counties and the City of Baltimore strongly supports Senate Bill 84 introduced by Senators Simonaire and Peters.

While we believe all Maryland citizens deserve proper internment rights The American Legion feels this is especially true for veterans who in their lifetime sacrificed a great deal on behalf of our nation. Additionally, we feel eligible dependents who too have given much of their lives in support of their spouses should be accorded the identical rights as well.

The Maryland Department of Veteran's Affairs which manages five cemeteries throughout the State, in our estimation, is well positioned to serve these unclaimed remains in a proper, honorable manner.

We pray this Committee will render a favorable report on Senate Bill 84 and commend Senators Simonaire and Peters for their compassion on this essential task.

Yours, Respectfully

Patrick J. Guibao

Patrick J. Guibao Chair THE AMERICAN LEGION Department of Maryland Legislative Commission