



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

SENATE BILL 90 – SUPPORT

21 January 2020

Senator Paul G. Pinsky and Members of the
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Military Coalition to offer our **support for Senate Bill 90**.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a 501(c)4 social welfare organization, incorporated in the State of Maryland. We are an alliance of sixteen organizations representing over 100,000 members, about one fourth of Maryland's Veterans. Our coalition partners and signatories are listed on the following page.

Our mission is to advocate in the Maryland general assembly and throughout Maryland state government in order to improve the benefits and quality of life programs for Veterans, Service members, and their Families.

We believe that **Senate Bill 90** advances our goal of enhancing the services offered by the Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program. This bill also directly relates to our goal of supporting measures that positively contribute to our Veterans' behavioral health and to suicide prevention measures, as service dogs, support dogs, and therapy horses have been conclusively proven to.

Significantly, this legislation restates the definitions of "service dog" and "support dog", while adding the important category of "therapy horse". These definitions will greatly assist efforts to determine qualified nonprofit partners eligible to receive funding from the program.

The Maryland Military Coalition strongly supports Senate Bill 90 and respectfully requests a favorable report on this important legislation.

Thank you for supporting Maryland Veterans!

Sincerely,

Brian T. Smith
Vice President

BTSmith1184@outlook.com

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition


Air Force Sergeants Association


American Military Society


Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service

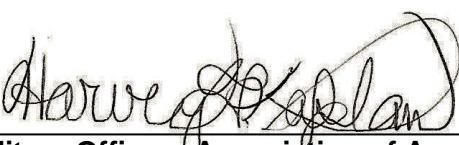

Disabled American Veterans


Distinguished Flying Cross Association



Fleet Reserve Association


Jewish War Veterans of the USA


Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association


Military Officers Association of America


Military Order of the Purple Heart


National Association for Black Veterans


Naval Enlisted Reserve Association


NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers


Society of Military Widows


The Retired Enlisted Association


Veterans of Foreign Wars