



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

SENATE BILL 282 – SUPPORT

Maryland National Guard – Tuition Assistance Program – Modifications Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 12, 2020

The Maryland Military Coalition is a **nonprofit, all volunteer, Veterans advocacy group** representing the interests of Maryland Veterans, Service members, and their Families. Our alliance consists of sixteen organizations, listed on the following page, with over 100,000 members. We represent about one-fourth of Maryland's Veterans.

The Maryland Military Coalition strongly supports Senate Bill 282.

As you know, this bill increases, from 50% to 100%, the percentage of tuition that may be reimbursed of the cost of in-State tuition for certain courses for any active National Guard member attending certain institutions; and expanding the definition of "member" as it relates to who can receive tuition reimbursement to include any individual who holds a commission in the National Guard.

Maryland National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are truly thrice the citizens! In their civilian capacities, they work and engage in their in their communities as business leaders, teachers, and first responders, and more. They remain ready, at a moment's notice, to respond to a variety of state emergencies and natural disasters. Also, our National Guard, the backbone of our All Volunteer Force, has borne much of the burden of nearly two decades of combat following 9/11.

National Guard service is clearly demanding! Frequent mobilizations for overseas deployments, coupled with short-notice responses to emergencies and disasters, can wreak havoc on employment and family life. **And yet they serve!**

So, what should we be doing for them?

The Tuition Assistance program is not only an important recruiting and retention tool, it also helps ensure that our fellow Marylanders can continue their educations, becoming better citizens, Soldiers, and Airmen. It also serves as a most appropriate, well-deserved, hard-earned reward for their arduous service on our behalf.

We strongly support this initiative to improve the educational opportunities for our Maryland National Guard!

The Maryland Military Coalition **requests a favorable report for Senate Bill 282.**

For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact me at
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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