

SENATOR SARAH ELFRETH
Legislative District 30
Anne Arundel County

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

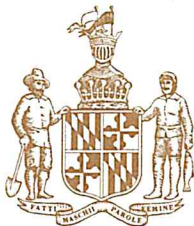
Education, Business and Administration

Chair, Pensions

Senate Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 12, 2019

Testimony in Favor of SB458
Higher Education - Nonresident Tuition Exemption for Military Personnel, Spouses, and
Dependents - Alterations

Chairman Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 458. This small bill would clarify the law to ensure that Spouses and Dependents who qualified for in-state tuition when their service member lived in Maryland continue to have that benefit if their sponsor is reassigned out of state.

Maryland has over 30,000 active duty service members in our State, though many of these service members have little to no say as to their reassignments. If a spouse or a dependent of a service member is accepted at the in-state tuition rate, but the sponsoring veteran is forced to move out of State, then this in-state tuition rate is lost. Furthermore, this bill also provides the in-state rate as long as they remain continuously enrolled.

This bill fixes this problem by allowing dependents and spouses, who qualified for in-state tuition while here, to retain that rate even if the veteran is re-assigned. The fiscal note is zero because these dependents and spouses have already received the in-state rate. This bill is supported by the Department of Defense, the Maryland Military Coalition, and the American Legion.

Once again I ask for a favorable committee report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Elf".

Sarah Elfreth