



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

HOUSE BILL 236 – SUPPORT

12 February 2020

Delegate Barve and Members of the
Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Military Coalition to offer our **support for House Bill 236**.

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 House Bill 236 advances our goal of enhancing the services offered by the Recreational Licenses Donation Program. This bill also directly relates to our goal of supporting measures that positively contribute to our Veterans' behavioral health and help prevent Veterans suicide, which recreational therapy programs, such as hunting and fishing, have been conclusively proven to.

Significantly, this legislation removes a sunset provision in current law, thus extending this valuable program without a limiting date. If passed and enacted, it will ensure this program is available to future generations of qualifying Service Members and Veterans.

The Maryland Military Coalition strongly supports House Bill 236 and respectfully requests a favorable report on this important legislation.

Thank you for supporting Maryland Veterans!

Sincerely,

Brian T. Smith
Vice President
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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