



February 21, 2020

The Honorable Delores Kelley, Chairwoman
Senate Finance Committee

Re: Senate Bill 532 - Task Force to Study the Veteran–Owned Small Business Enterprise Program

Position: *Support*

Chairwoman Kelley and Committee Members:

I am writing to express my *support* for Chairman Will Smith’s Senate Bill 532, Task Force to Study the Veteran–Owned Small Business Enterprise (VSBE) Program. Senate Bill 532 establishes a task force to study and make recommendations regarding opportunities for veteran-owned small business enterprises to participate in State procurement contracts and the improvement of the program.

Created in 2012, the Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise (VSBE) program was designed to provide contracting opportunities on state-funded procurements for qualified veteran-owned small businesses. Designated state agencies and departments are directed to spend at least 1% of the total dollar value of their procurement contracts either directly or indirectly with certified VSBE firms. Since the program’s conception, the participating state agencies and departments have struggled to meet the 1% aspirational goal as cited in the annual Board of Public Works review of the program. I believe that through the passage of this legislation the task force will be able provide meaningful recommendations to improve the Veteran–Owned Small Business Enterprise (VSBE) program by the start of the 2021 Legislative Session.

As a proud Veteran of the United States Air Force I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 532, which shows your dedicated support to our veteran business leaders in Maryland. Thank you for your kind consideration and attention to this legislation.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen G. Principe". The signature is written over a horizontal line that has been drawn through the text "Respectfully Submitted,".

Stephen G. Principe, President
SMI Services, LLC

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