



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

HOUSE BILL 12 – SUPPORT

22 January 2020

Delegate Shane E. Pendergrass and Members of the
Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairwoman Pendergrass and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Military Coalition to offer our **support for House Bill 12**.

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 12** advances our goal of ensuring that any state program of benefits, rights, or privileges applicable for Veterans should explicitly include members of all seven of the Uniformed Services.

Significantly, this legislation updates a portion of existing law to ensure that a Veteran of any of the seven Uniformed Services is eligible for a Home for Veterans supervised by the Department of Veterans Affairs, essentially changing the eligibility wording from "Armed Forces" to "Uniformed Services."

The Maryland Military Coalition strongly supports House Bill 12 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

James P. Monahan

Air Force Sergeants Association

Stacy P. May

American Military Society

Lynn A. Nash

**Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service**

Wilbert B. Forbes

Disabled American Veterans

Sheldon Goldberg

Distinguished Flying Cross Association

Pleasala J. Collins

Fleet Reserve Association

Evan A. Buttrick

Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Steve L. Bloodgood

**Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association**

Harvey Kaplan

Military Officers Association of America

Charles Egbert

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Mervyn Rice

National Association for Black Veterans

Michael P. Hays

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

Christian Andreasen

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Catherine L. McGraw

Society of Military Widows

Arthur L. Cooper

The Retired Enlisted Association

Thomas C. Williams

Veterans of Foreign Wars