

**MIKE ROGERS**  
*Legislative District 32*  
Anne Arundel County

Economic Matters Committee

*Subcommittees*

Banking, Consumer Protection, and  
Commercial Law

Unemployment Insurance



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**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 7, 2020

**Testimony in Favor of HB0389**  
**Income Tax Checkoff - Maryland Veterans Trust Fund**

Chair Kaiser, Vice-Chair Washington, and members of the Ways and Means Committee

I respectfully request a favorable report of House Bill 389. This bill would require the Comptroller to place a checkbox on income tax returns for individuals to donate directly to the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund.

The Maryland Veterans Trust Fund provides assistance to veterans and their families with rent, mortgage, and utility expenses. This fund has a proven history of success in aiding veterans and last year alone awarded over \$106,000 to dozens of veterans.

The Maryland Veterans Trust Fund's Report to the General Assembly highlights examples of how the Fund supports the heroes in our communities: \$3,560 to cover past due rent for a veteran in Prince George's County who had a recent medical emergency and was on leave without pay and \$3,511 to pay the past due electric bill for a veteran in Wicomico County who was in a car accident and out of work for a prolonged period.

You will find testimony from the Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Maryland General Assembly Veterans Caucus, Maryland Military Coalition, and The American Legion Maryland Department in support of this simple yet impactful legislation.

Including an income tax checkbox to ensure more funding for the Veterans Trust Fund will provide greater support for those who courageously served our nation. Again, I request favorable support for House Bill 389. At this time I would like to refer to my expert panel for further testimony on the matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Rogers".

Mike Rogers  
Maryland Delegate, 32<sup>nd</sup> District