



**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
Department of Maryland  
Legislative Commission

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**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 0503  
PRIMARY and SECONDARY SCHOOLS –  
DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF SERVICE MEMBERS –  
ENROLLMENT and DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS**

Chairwoman Kaiser and honorable Delegates of the House Ways and Means Committee,

The pathway through life requires educational development to the highest level a student can attain. This is a standard for all children including those categorized as military dependents. House Bill 503 insures those youth will continue their education unabated as they progress in the academic system.

According to the Fiscal and Policy Note accompanying this bill in the Current Law/Background it is noted that Maryland established an Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children in 2009. From the data provided it would seem this multi-state agreement would resolve any problems for military dependent children. In any regulation, unfortunately, there are cracks and crevices commonly referred to as loopholes.

HB 503 strengthfully closes any perceived loopholes and insures a child from a military family is enrolled in a school within ten (10) days of application and the submission of address verification documents.

The American Legion Department of Maryland serving over 48,000 active duty men and women, veterans from all wars and conflicts respectfully request a favorable report from the Ways and Means Committee. Thank you, and

Yours, Respectfully

*Patrick Guibao*

Patrick J. Guibao

Chairman

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