THE AMERICAN LEGION Department of Maryland Legislative Commission

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STATEMENT IN SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 1109 DISABLED ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS, DISABLED VETERANS, and SURVIVING SPOUSES – EXEMPTION FROM PROPERTY TAX and OTHER CHARGES and REFUNDS

Madam Chair Kaiser and honorable members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

House Bill 1109 is a comprehensive measure and a major aid to disabled active service members, disabled veterans who have been certified as eighty (80) percent disabled by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs and surviving spouses of those who died from these injuries as well as those killed in the service to their country.

The American Legion Department of Maryland fervently believes HB 1109 would aid families retain their principle residence and, at the same time, honors those who have given greatly, even to the point of the ultimate sacrifice, by such governmental entities as State, County and Municipalities.

HB 1109 puts real meaning into the phrase "thank you for your service," and renders greater fiscal honor than the momentary public tributes offered on Memorial and Veteran's Days.

The American Legion in Maryland serving over 48,000 active duty, veterans who have served in all wars and conflicts since 1917 along with their families feel HB 1109 is a special measure requiring the foremost attention by the House Ways and Means membership and we ask for a favorable report on this bill. We must thank Delegate Mangione and the other sponsoring delegates for their true sense of compassion toward the fallen and permanently injured military veteran.

Yours, respectfully

Patrick Guibao

Patrick J. Guibao Chair THE AMERICAN LEGION Department of Maryland Legislative Commission