



# MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

*Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy*

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT  
SENATE BILL 284  
BEFORE THE  
SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 2, 2021

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Chairman Pinsky, Madam Vice Chair Kagan and distinguished members of the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs,

The Maryland Military Coalition, comprised of 16 active duty and veteran service organizations who represent nearly 150,000 members throughout our State strongly support Senate Bill 284, the Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program – Definitions as a means to potentially reduce the number of suicides in the veteran community as well as bring needed aid and comfort to those suffering from service induced medical and psychological disorders and permanent injuries.

As the measure states this will bring much needed financial aid to those nonprofit entities who serve our veterans through designed therapeutic programs supported by the Maryland Veterans Service Animal Fund administered by the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs.

These benefits alone make SB 284 a viable, necessary program, in our estimation, and a worthwhile expenditure of State resources.

In closing, the Maryland Military Coalition salutes Senator Simonaire for his continual, consistent for the Maryland veteran community and we deeply urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 284.

Yours, respectfully

*Patrick Guibao*

Patrick J. Guibao  
Vice President and  
Legislative Director  
Maryland Military Coalition

Copies to      Senator Simonaire  
                         MMC Officers