



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
IN SUPPORT OF
SENATE BILL 283
BEFORE THE EDUCATION, HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 2, 2021

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

The Maryland Military Coalition, a consortium of 16 active duty and veteran service organizations representing nearly 150,000 members throughout our **State believe Senate Bill 283, the Voter Empowerment Act**, is a bill that is vital to our young adults in college and universities and members of the U. S. military.

Voting responsibility has been a cherished principle in the military since the Civil War. President Lincoln pursued voting rights for the nation's military in 1864. It was deeply advanced during World War II by President Roosevelt and has been a viable responsibility since then with all service branches have a voting education officer assigned to all facilities.

The Common Access Card used by both active duty personnel, reservists and civilian DOD employees as well as the Federal Post Card Application for those stationed overseas have eased the capability for military voting.

The MMC sees though the successful passage of SB283 the possibility of having polling places on military installations thus making it easier for the assigned members to vote as well as retirees who may feel more comfortable joining their active service comrades.

In closing the Maryland Military Coalition dutifully request a favorable report on SB 283 and applaud Senator Elfreth for her compassion and foresight in advancing what New York Governor Cuomo who recently called voting "perhaps our most precious freedom."

Yours, respectfully

Patrick Guibao

Patrick J. Guibao
Vice President and
Legislative Director

Copies to Senator Elfreth
 MMC Officers

