Bryson F. Popham, Esq.

191 Main Street Suite 310 Annapolis, MD 21401 www.papalaw.com 410-268-6871 (Telephone) 443-458-0444 (Facsimile)

March 30, 2022

The Honorable Guy Guzzone Senate Budget and Tax Committee 3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 617- Property Tax – Credit for Surviving Spouses of Fallen Service Members FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Guzzone Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Army Alliance, I am pleased to support the referenced legislation.

The Army Alliance is a nonprofit advocacy organization whose sole mission is to provide support for one of our major military installations in the State – the Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG). From its founding in 1917, APG has grown into the central research facility for the United States Army, one of 12 such military installations in our State. APG and the defense community in the surrounding area are the largest employer in Northeastern Maryland.

As part of its mission, the Army Alliance also supports legislation that recognizes the positive contributions of service members to our community and to our State. House Bill 617 is an example of official recognition of the supreme sacrifice that our active duty military members risk every day. It represents a modest but tangible benefit for a surviving spouse who would otherwise be ineligible for a certain property tax exemption under the Tax Article of State law.

For these reasons, the Army Alliance respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 617.

Very truly yours,

Bugen Lophann

Bryson F. Popham On Behalf of Anthony Lisuzzo President, Army Alliance