

Ltr to Committee.pdf

Uploaded by: johnny salling

Position: FAV

JOHNNY RAY SALLING
Legislative District 6
Baltimore County

Budget and Taxation Committee

Public Safety, Transportation,
and Environment Subcommittee



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 321
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3587 · 301-858-3587
800-492-7122 Ext. 3587
JohnnyRay.Salling@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 19, 2022

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Re: SB 236 Maryland Veterans Trust Fund – CAM for Veterans – Established
(David Perez Military Heros Act (End 22 a Day))

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

Thank you for accepting this letter of support for SB 236. This bill would work toward addressing our limited alternative health care options for veterans.

Post-traumatic stress disorder is a very real and very serious issue that many of our veterans face today, and regular medical options may not always be the best form of treatment for them. There is a growing body of studies that are beginning to show that alternative treatment is helpful for veterans suffering from PTSD and other mental health issues.

This bill will allow veterans who are suffering from PTSD and other mental health issues to be able to seek complementary and alternative medical treatments or CAM as it is known. These are treatments such as acupuncture, yoga, massage therapy, and relaxation treatments. Many times they can be unavailable either because of the inability to get the treatments in a timely manner or because they may not be accepted. This leaves a veteran in a tough spot of trying to self-fund for treatment. This bill would work to help bridge that gap by allowing funding for these alternative treatments so that our veterans can get the help they need. For those who have done so much to protect our freedoms, I believe this is a great way to give back and help them, and I urge a favorable report on SB 236.

Sincerely,
Senator Johnny Ray Salling

SB236MDVeteransTrustFund-CAMforVeteransGrantProgra

Uploaded by: Karen Kalla

Position: FAV



One Park Place | Suite 475 | Annapolis, MD 21401-3475
1-866-542-8163 | Fax: 410-837-0269
aarp.org/md | md@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpm
facebook.com/aarpm

**SB236 Maryland Veterans Trust Fund – CAM for Veterans Grant Program – Established
(David Perez Military Heroes Act (End 22 a Day))**

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

SUPPORT

January 25, 2022

Good Afternoon Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee. I am Larry Walton, Army Veteran, Member of AARP, and resident of Ocean Pines, Maryland. AARP Maryland is one of the largest membership-based organizations in the state, encompassing over 850,000 members. **AARP MD overwhelmingly supports SB236 Maryland Veterans Trust Fund – CAM for Veterans Program – Established (David Perez Military Heroes Act (End 22 a Day)).**

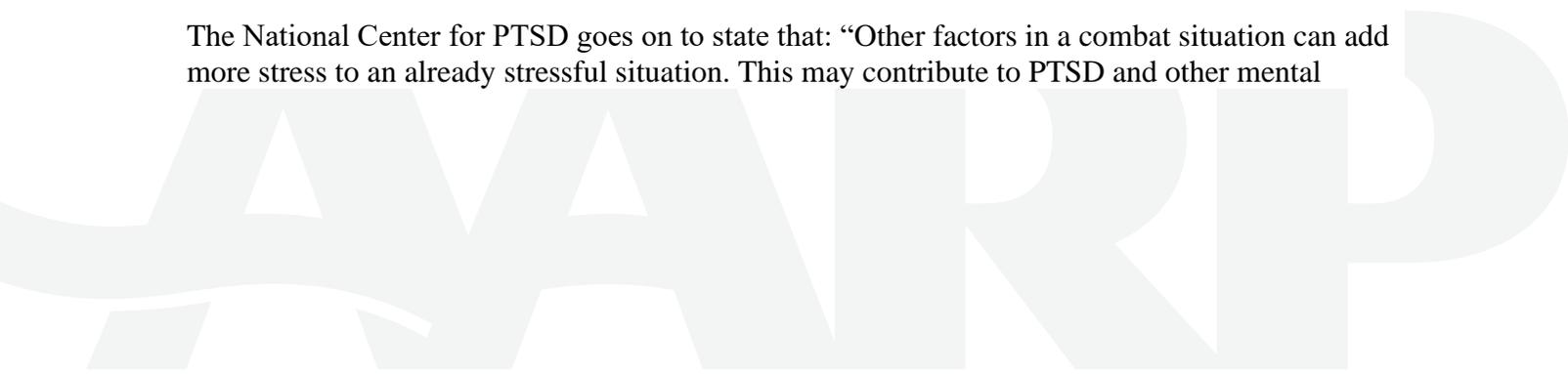
AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities, and protection from financial abuse. Veterans comprise a significant portion of our membership and our members' families. Their wellbeing is an urgent matter.

SB236 would provide grants to veterans who are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression or stress and who are needing financial assistance to find and acquire complementary and alternative medical treatments. It builds on existing law and provides for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to adopt regulations, establish application and approval processes, as well eligibility standards for potential grant recipients.

According to the National Center for PTSD in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the number of Veterans with PTSD varies by service era:

- **Operations Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Enduring Freedom (OEF):** About 11-20% of Veterans who served in OIF or OEF have PTSD in a given year.
- **Gulf War (Desert Storm):** About 12% of Gulf War Veterans have PTSD in a given year.
- **Vietnam War:** About 15% of Vietnam Veterans were currently diagnosed with PTSD at the time of the most recent study in the late 1980s, the National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Study. It is estimated that about 30% of Vietnam Veterans have had PTSD in their lifetime.

The National Center for PTSD goes on to state that: "Other factors in a combat situation can add more stress to an already stressful situation. This may contribute to PTSD and other mental



health problems. These factors include what you do in the war, the politics around the war, where the war is fought, and the type of enemy you face.”

Military sexual trauma (MST), any sexual harassment or sexual assault that occurs in the military, also leads to PTSD and other stress disorders. MST can happen to both men and women and can occur during peacetime, training, or war.

“Among Veterans who use VA health care, about:

- 23% of women reported sexual assault when in the military; and
- 55% of women and 38% of men have experienced sexual harassment when in the military.”

These statistics are just a sampling of the mental health impacts that military service has had and continues to have on America’s Veterans. No Veteran should have to live with the long-term consequences of their service absent the support they deserve from their country and its leaders.

SB236 Honors the Service of our military Veterans as exemplified by David Perez, Army Veteran of the Iraq War. It addresses a very critical and urgent need of Veterans to access complementary and alternative health and wellness services resulting from their dedicated efforts in life-threatening situations around the world to serve and protect the interests and people of our country. We need to be there for them in their time of need, just as they were there for our country in its time of need.

We respectfully request a favorable report for Senate Bill 236. For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact Tammy Bresnahan, Associate State Director of Advocacy at tbresnahan@arp.org or by calling 410-302-8451.

SB236.pdf

Uploaded by: Laura Goodpaster

Position: FAV

Budget and Taxation Committee
[Senator Guy Guzzone](#)
[Senator Jim Rosapepe](#)

3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

My name is Laura Goodpaster. David Perez was my son. I am here today asking for a favorable vote for SB236 Maryland Veterans Trust Fund - CAM for Veterans Grant Program - Established (David Perez Military Heroes Act (End 22 a Day)).

David Perez was born and raised in Maryland. When he was 17, he joined the military. He served in the Maryland Army National Guard for 11 years, he was a combat vet, and after he served his country he decided to dedicate his life to helping other veterans who served. David struggled with PTSD after his deployment in 2006, and in the fall of 2020 we lost David from the battle with his own challenges. Had this fund been available to him I believe he may still be with us.

As a military veteran myself I have seen the results of our veterans not having access to therapies that will help them to cope. That is why I support this bill, to honor the work that David did and to keep his memory, dedication, and passion to this issue alive as well as provide the struggling veterans in our State with assistance for alternative forms of treatment for their time serving our country.

Thank you
Laura Goodpaster