



Montgomery County Chapter  
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Committee Chair Barve and Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee;

My name is David Peterson. I am a retired Captain of the NOAA Corps and I am offering testimony on **HB400**, WSSC-Hiring and Promotion Preferences-Veterans and Their Spouses- in my capacity as Immediate Past President of the Montgomery County Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. I am also providing testimony on behalf of the Maryland Military Coalition. MOAA chapters are local affiliates of the national organization and are advocates for the uniformed services community at the state and local levels. The Coalition is a combined group of 17 service advocacy organizations representing some 150,000 citizens of the uniformed services community.

One of the organizational goals of the Coalition, endorsed by the MOAA Montgomery County Chapter, is to advocate for legislation that enhances "veteran workforce development." Montgomery County represents a significant portion of WSSC's service area. The county also has a very large population of veterans. This situation is a perfect confluence of the two factors underlying this bill.

The Montgomery County Chapter and the Coalition, in general, supports any reasonable circumstance whereby a Maryland citizen, who has honorably served in one of our Nation's uniformed services, can receive a preference in hiring and/or promotion in the private sector workforce. The inclusion of spouses in that ability recognizes the "spouses also serve." Enactment of this legislation will provide WSSC as an employer with exactly the same authorities available to other employers in Maryland, and to the benefit of our state's veterans.

The Chapter and Coalition urge a **FAVORABLE** report for HB400 from the Committee, and ask that the bill then advance in the legislative process.

Respectfully,

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