

In **Support** of **HB 273**, "Defend the Guard,"

Jacinda Bronaugh

Address 7643 Midtown Road,

Fulton, Maryland 20759

### **District 13**

House Health and Government Operations Committee,

My name is Jacinda Bronaugh. I am a registered voter in Fulton, Maryland, and I support HOUSE BILL 273, the DEFEND THE GUARD ACT. HB 273 would help ensure that MARYLAND'S GUARD will not be sent to fight without a CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF WAR.

Maryland National Guardsmen are vital to the HEALTH and SAFETY of our state. Sending them into combat without a CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF WAR, is not only UNCONSTITUTIONAL, it is NEGLIGENT.

Maryland National Guardsmen, whose duty falls first to the state, are indispensable to the HEALTH and SAFETY of their fellow Marylanders. Many of our Guardsmen are first responders, medical personnel, educators, and essential workers, who are crucial in times of crises. Taking them away from their families, jobs, and the communities they serve and protect, without a CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF WAR, leaves Marylanders, particularly those in rural or underserved areas, vulnerable.

The Tenth Amendment of the Constitution solidifies the role of states in shaping national policy. The DEFEND THE GUARD ACT would force the federal government to follow what is codified in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution. If passed, Maryland can prevent our National Guardsmen from going into combat on foreign soil until a CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF WAR has been made.

Please join other states in passing HB 273, the DEFEND THE GUARD ACT, and help keep Maryland and MARYLANDERS safe.

Thank you for your time.

Jacinda Bronaugh