

Statement of support for HB 273

To: House Health and Government Operations Committee

From: Krystal Woodworth, North East, Maryland

February 4, 2022

As the wife of a long serving Maryland National Guards member, and the mother of two children who want to follow in their father's footsteps, I urge you to vote in favor of the Defend the Guard act.

The United States has spent 229 years out of our 246 years in existence at war. This means our nation has seen only 17 short years of peace. There is understandably some uncertainty and hesitation with the passage of such a powerful bill, but I urge you to be the bold leaders this country desperately needs. Pass this bill telling US legislators that if they want our children to fight their battles, they must do their job and declare war. If war is not worth declaring, it's not worth sending our children to die for.

Thank you,
Krystal Woodworth