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Dear Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to support HB 273, Defend the Guard. I am Amy LePore and I am a volunteer with Defend the Guard Delaware working with legislators to build support for our own initiative. But, I spent most of my life in Maryland and I am thrilled to be able to lend the Defend the Guard effort here my support.

I am not a veteran. But, I do know firsthand the toll that deployments take on families. My father served in the Army and the Army National Guard from the time I was very small until just a few years ago. I love my father more than anything in the world and my younger years are book marked by the times he left and the times he came back. So, while it might feel like a small element of this, Defend the Guard defends families too.

Families deserve better than to lose time to elective, unconstitutional foreign wars.

National Guardsmen deserve better than to lose time in their states and communities, serving as they are intended to.

This Country deserves better than a Congress that passes the buck time and again, letting the President direct state assets to wars they refuse to declare themselves.

This body and legislatures like it have the key to end this decades long practice of ignoring the constitution and leveraging state assets to do the federal government's bidding. HB 273, Defend the Guard, is that key and I am grateful for the opportunity support it here today just as I do in my home state of Delaware.