

In Support of HB 273, "Defend the Guard"

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House Health and Government Operations Committee,

I am writing to express my support of HB 273 Defend the Guard. I am writing as a concerned citizen and voter. Maryland's National Guard, like many state Guard units, is being overused and used in a way that is contrary to its constitutional purpose. The National Guard should be used to deal with issues at home in the U.S. and Maryland. Their absence in foreign wars prevents them from doing their job. This bill is a positive step because:

- It only asks that the National Guard be used when Congress has declared war, which is their constitutional duty, not that of the Executive branch.
- It does not interfere with the ability of the Governor or the President to national emergencies.
- It is bipartisan and supported nationwide.

There are many other points that make this a strong and worthwhile bill. I am happy to testify to give details more at length.

Thank you for your consideration of this HB 273, Defend the Guard.

Sincerely,

Elisa Cuapio