



# MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

*Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy*

## Oral Testimony In Support of HB 317 Recommend FAVORABLE Report Robert Norton, President

Madam Chair Atterbeary and distinguished members of the Ways and Means Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **FAVOR** of Delegate Novotny's bill, "Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Military Retirement Income," HB317.

My name is Bob Norton. I am the President of the 19 military-connected organizations who make up the Maryland Military Coalition. I am a retired Army officer and also the current President of the Military Officers Association of America Maryland Council of Chapters.

The Maryland Military Coalition strongly supports HB 317. In relation to its relatively small population in our nation, Maryland has one of the highest, if not the highest number of military bases in the nation, which contribute over 15% of our state's GDP according to a Towson University economic study. HB 317 would phase out over four years state tax on uniformed services retired pay. From our perspective this issue should be seen through the lens of its enormous potential to benefit our state's economy by attracting and retaining highly qualified and experienced women and men who have successfully completed challenging and often dangerous careers in service to our nation. They have the "right stuff" to help lead our economy forward. And these days, they have lots of choices on where to live and work when it's time to take off their uniforms, including 35 states that do not tax military retired pay at all.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan organization with approximately 150,000 members including currently serving, National Guard and Reserves, veterans, retirees, their families, caretakers and survivors.

The Maryland Military Coalition recommends a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 317, "Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Military Retirement Income," and we thank DEL Novotny for his leadership on this issue.

Thank you.

Robert F. Norton  
Colonel, USA-ret.  
President  
Maryland Military Coalition  
District 19