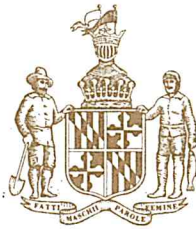


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TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 234

PUBLIC SCHOOLS – PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT

WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

MARCH 31, 2022

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Washington, and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 234 is a very straightforward bill that would simply create a recognition program through the Maryland State Department of Education for public schools who cater to military-connected students and their families.

Schools would be designated as 'Purple Star Schools' if they meet a few requirements in providing support services for students with family members who serve in the Armed Forces. These requirements would include designating a school staff liaison for military-connected students and creating a webpage relating to resources for said students.

The aim of this legislation would be to help ease the adjustments of military-connected students and to foster even better relationships between local military installations and their communities. Because of the sacrifices made by the children of those who serve in the Armed Services, we need to do everything within our power to ensure their success. This legislation would help to achieve that aim.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 234.