

Written Statement in Support
For Senate Bill 473
Before the Education, Energy and Environment Committee
February 21, 2023

The nation's longest war known as the Global War on Terrorism had its origins following the heartbreaking, deadly attacks in World Trade Center and at the nearby Pentagon on September 11, 2001 and concluded August 30, 2021. During that 22-year period 1, 537 Maryland residents have served our country, in post 9/11 wars according to Brown University's Watson Institute.

Senate Bill 473 would help memorialize the 128 service men and women, all from Maryland, who gave their lives in that terrible conflict as well as support and recognize those who returned from Iraq, Afghanistan and other battle areas; many who still live with the devastating effects brought on by the War on Terror.

This bill would create a commission to establish a Memorial to these warriors who fought bravely for us and, in turn, should be recognized by us. Like the bill signed into law in the last session to create a commission for creating a suitable Memorial to Women, SB 473 would honor those who voluntarily served our country in a terrible time of crises.

The American Legion Department of Maryland in conjunction with the Fleet Reserve Association—both international veteran service organizations with a membership exceeding 142,000 throughout Maryland—urge the Education, Energy and Environment Committee to offer a favorable report on Senate Bill 473 to honor those who gave a lot and those who gave their all in the Global War on Terrorism. In closing, we wish to thank Senator Klausmeier for his respect to our service community.

Most respectfully,

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