

ANTHONY G. BROWN
Attorney General



CANDACE McLAREN LANHAM
Chief of Staff

CAROLYN A. QUATTROCKI
Deputy Attorney General

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FACSIMILE NO.
(410) 576-7036

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO.
(410) 576-6584

February 21, 2023

TO: The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair, Appropriations Committee

FROM: Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: HB553 Maryland National Guard - Tricare Premium Reimbursement
Program - Establishment (Health Care for Heroes Act of 2023) **(Support)**

The Office of the Attorney General requests a favorable report on House Bill 553. HB 553 establishes a program within the Maryland Military Department to reimburse members of the Maryland National Guard for healthcare and dental premiums paid for themselves and their families. The program will cover employee premium costs for the federally subsidized Tricare Reserve Select program, creating an avenue to free healthcare for Maryland National Guard members and their families. In addition to expanding access to coverage for those who serve our communities and nation, this program will serve as a powerful recruitment and retention tool for the Guard.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General requests a favorable report on House Bill 553.

cc: Committee Members

This bill letter is a statement of the Office of Attorney General's policy position on the referenced pending legislation. For a legal or constitutional analysis of the bill, Members of the House and Senate should consult with the Counsel to the General Assembly, Sandy Brantley. She can be reached at 410-946-5600 or sbrantley@oag.state.md.us.