

In **Support** of **HB 220** "Defend Our Guard,"

Jacinda Bronaugh

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### **District 13**

House Health and Government  
Operations Committee,

My name is Jacinda Bronaugh, and I support HOUSE BILL 220 the DEFEND OUR GUARD ACT.

Maryland National Guardsmen, are indispensable to the HEALTH and SAFETY of their fellow Marylanders. They are currently undermanned, and fatigued from constant deployment overseas, and jumping from one crisis to another.

Many of our Guardsmen are first responders, medical personnel, educators, and essential workers, who are crucial in times of crises. Taking them away from their families, jobs, and the communities they serve and protect, without a CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF WAR, leaves Marylanders vulnerable. Sending our Guardsmen overseas could lead to a hurricane Katrina type situation - where Louisiana Guardsmen were in Iraq, and not in New Orleans when the levees broke.

The Tenth Amendment of the Constitution solidifies the role of

states in shaping national policy. The DEFEND OUR GUARD ACT would force the federal government to follow what is codified in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution. If passed, Maryland can prevent our National Guardsmen from going into combat on foreign soil until a CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF WAR has been made.

Please join other states in passing HB 220 the DEFEND OUR GUARD ACT, and help keep Maryland and MARYLANDERS safe.

Thank you for your time.

Jacinda Bronaugh