

**MIKE ROGERS**  
*Legislative District 32*  
Anne Arundel County



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Acting Chair, Veterans Caucus

**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

**Testimony in Favor of HB0480**  
**Department of Veterans Affairs - Burial in State Veterans' Cemeteries –**  
**Spouses and Dependents**

**Chair Barnes, Vice-Chair Chang, and members of the Appropriations Committee,**

I respectfully request a favorable report of HB0480. This legislation ensures that Maryland's Department of Veterans Affairs cannot charge for a fee for the cost for opening and closing the burial plot when burying a spouse or dependent of a veteran at a State veterans' cemetery; and generally relating to State veterans' cemeteries. This prohibition will prevent family members and loved ones from incurring last-minute costs for laying to rest veterans with their families.

Simple but meaningful acts like this go a long way in demonstrating Maryland's gratitude for our service members. This will allow us to continue to recognize the collective sacrifices their families have made and continue to make to honor their servicemember and themselves.

House Bill 480 will help to conform state law governing eligibility for the burial of veterans in Maryland state veterans' cemeteries to Federal law governing eligibility for the burial of veterans in National veterans' cemeteries.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB0480.

Sincerely,

*Mike Rogers*

Mike Rogers  
Maryland Delegate, 32nd District