



Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

Office of the Secretary

WES MOORE
GOVERNOR

ARUNA MILLER
LT. GOVERNOR

ANTHONY WOODS
ACTING SECRETARY

February 9, 2023

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Chair, Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building, Room 131
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary and Members of the Committee,

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs supports HB0316, Income Tax Checkoff - Maryland Veterans Trust Fund.

The bill, as drafted, will provide a means for those who file an individual income tax return to make a voluntary contribution to the Fund by a checkoff on Maryland Form 502.

The Maryland Veterans Trust Fund (a 501c3 organization) provides non-emergency financial assistance to veterans and surviving spouses. The Trust Fund receives funding from the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Commission along with a small number of private donations. The Fund, as currently operated, has low visibility by the public with less than 2% of overall donations coming in via private donations in 2021.

Enabling everyday Marylanders to offer a voluntary contribution while filing their State taxes will help to boost awareness of this resource for veterans or their surviving spouses.

Sincerely,

Anthony Woods
Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs