



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

January 23, 2024

HB 55
Maryland Commission on Veterans & Military Families
House Health & Government Operations Committee

Position: Support

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in support of House Bill 183. The Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

House Bill 55 seeks to establish a commission to study and develop a strategic plan to make Maryland the best place for veterans and military families.

The Conference consistently supports legislation that upholds the needs of families, especially when the efforts are focused on alleviating economic tensions, addressing behavior and mental health issues, providing adequate and quality healthcare, and providing for the general well-being of families to help them not only survive but thrive. House Bill 55 seeks to study the best policies that will help our veterans and military families thrive in Maryland. It is the duty of all of us to care for our veterans and military families who have sacrificed so much for each of us and our country.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 55.