

February 8, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

***RE: Letter of Support with Amendment – House Bill 231 – Vehicle Laws - Special
Registration Plates - Gold Star and Next of Kin Families***

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports House Bill 231 as an opportunity to recognize Marylanders whose loved ones have given the last full measure of devotion in service to our country.

House Bill 231 will extend the eligibility to receive Gold Star license plates to those that have received a Next of Kin lapel button and waive the fee for the plate set, along with waiving the fee for Gold Star recipients as well.

The Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) currently offers Gold Star license plates for eligible customers and would be proud to extend that offer to Next of Kin lapel button recipients as well thanks to House Bill 231. Honoring those who gave their lives by allowing their remaining loved ones to display a reminder of that sacrifice is a worthy endeavor the MVA is eager to offer.

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs and the Motor Vehicle Administration have agreed on one technical amendment: to strike the requirements for customization on page three, lines 12-13, due to privacy concerns.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant House Bill 231 and the forthcoming amendment a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer
Administrator
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
410-787-7830

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090