

Robert Head Testimony, Senate Finance Committee, 2/29/24

Good afternoon, Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier and Members of the Committee.

I am Robert Head, Vice President for State Government and Political Affairs at Lockheed Martin. I am also a former Navy Intelligence Officer. Both of my brothers graduated from the Naval Academy and had distinguished military careers – I am also a resident of Calvert County. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of Senate Bill 478, the Families Serve Act of 2024 today.

Lockheed Martin has been proud to call Bethesda, Maryland, home since Lockheed and Martin Marietta merged in 1995, with approximately 2,000 employees in the state, and an additional 120,000 employees worldwide. Our heritage in Maryland goes back to the earliest days of the aviation and aerospace industry with our founder, Glenn L. Martin. Lockheed Martin currently has approximately 39 facilities in Maryland, with an economic impact of more than \$5 billion dollars annually to the state's economy.

Lockheed Martin is the largest global aerospace and defense company, with a strong commitment to the well-being of our military community. Of our 122,000 employee population, about one in five is a veteran, reservist, or military spouse. We are dedicated to supporting service members and their families, empowering veterans in transition to the civilian sector, and honoring the legacy of those who have served. Through funding research to help inform policy decisions and drive critical programming, we're working to make a positive impact on the lives of those who have sacrificed so much for our nation.

As stated earlier, Lockheed Martin is pleased to support the Families Serve Act of 2024, as this proposed legislation will not only further Lockheed's commitment to the military community and their families, but also encourage other employers in the state to extend similar courtesies to military families who have given so much. Like Lockheed Martin, I am confident these employers will find this community of heroes to be a tremendous asset to their respective operations, further cementing Maryland's commitment to the military community and its families.

Thank you, again, to the Committee for your leadership on this initiative, and thank you to Governor Moore, Lt. Governor Miller, the First Lady, and Deputy Secretary Cohen and his Administration for leading this effort.

This concludes my testimony.

With appreciation,
Robert Head
Vice President, State Government and Political Affairs
Lockheed Martin Government Affairs