



February 28, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Finance Committee  
Maryland State Senate

**Re: Support for Senate Bill 478 – Families Serve Act of 2024**

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Finance Committee:

On behalf of Amazon, I write to express support for SB 478 – Families Serve Act of 2024. Amazon has pledged to hire 100,000 veterans and military spouses by the end of 2024, and we know that military spouses bring distinct talents to the workforce.

We have been tapping into this diverse talent pool since 2018 through Amazon's military spouse fellowship program in the U.S. The goal of this program is to bring military spouses into sustainable, meaningful career fields within Amazon. Through a 12-week fellowship, military spouses access professional training, networking, military spouse events, and hands-on job experience.

Amazon offers a variety of programs to assist transitioning service members and military spouses in finding rewarding careers. This includes access to company-funded skills training in high-demand areas through initiatives like the Amazon Technical Apprenticeship Program and AWS re/Start. Military spouses working at Amazon can also take advantage of the company's free upskilling opportunities, which help participants gain new technical skills and advance their careers. For example, Career Choice is Amazon's pre-paid tuition program for fulfillment center employees looking to move into high-demand occupations. Career Choice has already helped thousands of Amazon's Maryland employees pursue their education at nearly a dozen of Maryland's public colleges and universities.

The Families Serve Act of 2024 would create stronger pathways to employment for military spouses and help address the unique challenges military families face. We appreciate the Administration's and the General Assembly's commitment to military families and urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Anya Malkov  
Head of Maryland Public Policy