

ADRIAN BOAFO
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Economic Matters Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Chairwoman Joseline Pena-Melnyk
Health and Government Operations Committee

Dear Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

I am writing to express my support for HB0598, which seeks to establish military status as a protected class, thereby prohibiting discrimination against veterans and military personnel in various aspects of life. This legislation aims to create a legal framework that ensures fair treatment and protects the rights of those who have served their country in the armed forces.

HB0598 would make it illegal to discriminate against veterans during the hiring process or in terms of promotions and job benefits. Furthermore, it would ensure that veterans and military personnel are not unfairly treated in the housing market, granting them equal access to housing opportunities without bias.

Numerous surveys have highlighted negative experiences faced by service members, military spouses, and dependents due to their military affiliation. Examples include denying employment to a military spouse, refusing to accommodate service members and veterans with PTSD, and charging higher security deposits for rental properties.

As Governor Moore has made clear, 2024 is the year for military families in the State of Maryland. This bill is crucial in safeguarding service members, veterans, and their families from discrimination across all areas of life, including commerce, education, health, and government services. Therefore, I urge you to give a favorable report to HB0598.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian Boafo".

Delegate Adrian Boafo