

In **Support** of **HB 0299(FAV)**, “Defend the Guard,”

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House Health and Government Operations Committee,

House Health and Government Operations Committee, I am writing to express my support of HB 0299 Defend the Guard. I am writing as a concerned citizen and voter. Maryland's National Guard, like many state Guard units, is being overused and used in a way that is contrary to its constitutional purpose. The National Guard should serve Maryland. Their absence in foreign wars prevents them from doing their job. This bill is a positive step because:

- It only asks that the National Guard be used when Congress has declared war, which is their constitutional duty, not that of the Executive branch.
- It does not interfere with the ability of the Governor or the President to national emergencies. In fact it ensures that the guard is best able to serve Maryland
- It is bipartisan and supported nationwide.

There are many other points that make this a strong and worthwhile bill. I am happy to testify to give details more at length.

Sincerely,

Elisa Cuapio