

Support for HB299 - Defend the Guard Legislation

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Dear Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB299, the Defend the Guard legislation, currently under consideration. As a concerned citizen and voter, I believe this bill addresses critical issues surrounding the deployment of Maryland's National Guard and aligns with its constitutional purpose.

Maryland's National Guard, like many state Guard units, is being overused in ways that deviate from its constitutional purpose. The National Guard's primary duty is to serve Maryland, and their absence in foreign wars hinders their ability to fulfill this duty effectively. HB299 is a positive step for several reasons:

- **Constitutional Duty:** The bill only asks that the National Guard be deployed when Congress has declared war, aligning with their constitutional duty. This ensures a more deliberate and justified use of our state's resources.
- **Preserving Emergency Response:** Importantly, HB299 does not interfere with the Governor or the President's ability to respond to national emergencies. Instead, it ensures that the National Guard remains well-positioned to serve Maryland during times of crisis.
- **Bipartisanship:** The legislation is bipartisan and enjoys support nationwide, underlining its widespread appeal and recognition of the need for a more thoughtful approach to deploying our National Guard.

In conclusion, I urge you to support HB299, as it not only upholds constitutional principles but also ensures that our National Guard is best positioned to serve the citizens of Maryland. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Rak
Port Tobacco, MD