

TO: Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Maryland Veterans Caucus, House Membership

DATE: February 19, 2024

RE: HB875 Veterans - Persons Providing Veterans Benefits Services and Veterans Benefits Appeals Services - Fees and Compensation

The Maryland Veterans Caucus, House Membership respectfully requests a favorable report on **HB875** Veterans - Persons Providing Veterans Benefits Services and Veterans Benefits Appeals Services - Fees and Compensation.

This bill was sponsored by Delegate Nick Allen for the purpose of prohibiting, except as authorized by federal law, a person from charging a fee or accepting compensation for the provision of veterans benefits services or veterans benefits appeals services. This bill also establishes standards for the division of attorney's fees in connection with the provision of veterans benefits services or appeals services, requiring a person who charges fees for providing certain veterans benefits services to comply with certain ethical standards.

The Veterans Caucus mission is to study, develop, and promote legislation designed to improve the quality of life for veterans in the State of Maryland in the areas of employment, education, economics, training, and health. And to assist the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs in achieving its mission and goals, on behalf of the veterans in the State.

The Veterans Caucus Legislative Review Board offers and <u>recommends support and a favorable report of HB875.</u>

Thank you,

Mike Rogers

Delegate Mike Rogers

House Chair, Veterans Caucus