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February 12, 2024

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee House Office Building 6 Bladen St Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Joseline Pena-Melnyk,

On behalf of the majority of the Women Legislators of Maryland members, we are writing to support **HB598 Discrimination** – **Military Status - Prohibition**. This legislation has been identified as one of our priorities for the 2024 legislative session.

This bill prohibits discrimination based on military status with regard to public accommodation, housing, employment, financial transactions, education, insurance, the provision of public utility services, and state personnel actions. This legislation protects those who hold a military status from discrimination. The Women Legislators of Maryland fully support veterans and their families and, therefore, offer full support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Delegate Edith J. Patterson

President