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WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND
THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
6 Bladen St
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Joseline A. 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. Additionally, we recognize that a majority of military spouses are women, and that military status often hinder their opportunities due to discrimination. No individual should ever have opportunities limited due to their military status. The Women Legislators of Maryland condemn discrimination and offer full support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Delegate Edith J. Patterson
President