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Anne Arundel County

Economic Matters Committee

Subcommittees

Banking, Consumer Protection, and
Commercial Law

Unemployment Insurance



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 14th, 2024

Testimony in Favor of HB1492
Education - Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery - Student Information

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins and members of the Ways and Means Committee

I respectfully request a favorable report of HB1492. Rather than rely on an opt-in for sharing Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) scores, **this bill would require each public school that administers the ASVAB to notify students (and their parents or guardians) two weeks before administering the test of the option to opt-out of the release of a student's personal information and test scores to military recruiters.**

This will help to address a critical recruitment issue for our Maryland National Guard. By allowing military recruiters access to ASVAB scores, we can better assist young individuals in identifying suitable career paths, including opportunities within the Maryland National Guard.

Each public school that administers the ASVAB must (1) send a written notice to the ASVAB representative coordinating the school's administration of the ASVAB of this requirement and (2) notify students taking the ASVAB and the parent or guardian of students taking the ASVAB of the release of student information requirements. A student or their parent or guardian may choose to release the student's personal information and ASVAB scores by individually submitting the required forms to the military services authorizing the release of the information to the specified approved entities.

Because the onus is currently on busy students and parents to proactively share their scores, military recruiters miss out on identifying eligible potential service members and students miss out on all the opportunities that serving provides. This approach strikes a balance between safeguarding student privacy and ensuring that our youth have access to valuable career information and opportunities. **Maryland is the only state in our region which has this limitation on communication from National Guard recruiters.** We are asking to allow our National Guard recruiters to function on the same standards as our surrounding states.

By providing informed consent and access to career information, we can ensure that Maryland remains "Always Ready, Always There" to support our local community at home or protect our nation around the world.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB1492.

Sincerely,

Mike Rogers

Mike Rogers
Maryland Delegate, 32nd District