

Word Count: 292

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**Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (HB 1492)
For Major General Janeen L. Birckhead**

Good afternoon, Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins and members of the Ways and Means Committee. My name is Major General Janeen L. Birckhead. I am here today to advocate for a favorable report for House Bill 1492, which addresses a critical issue regarding the release of students' Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery scores in our state.

The ASVAB Career Exploration Program is a valuable resource that offers students insights into various occupational fields and helps predict their future academic and occupational success. 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.

Currently, Maryland law prohibits public schools from sharing ASVAB scores with military recruiters without explicit parental consent.

HB 1492 proposes a reasonable solution by replacing the current prohibition with a requirement for parental notification, allowing parents a two-week window to choose whether to release ASVAB scores to any entity.

Repealing this portion of Maryland law would not only uphold the rights of students but also empower them with informed consent and essential career information. Each year, approximately 5,000 Maryland students voluntarily take the ASVAB test, demonstrating their interest in exploring career paths and opportunities.

This approach strikes a balance between parents desires and ensuring that our youth, especially our underserved populations, have access to valuable career information and opportunities.

Furthermore, repealing this portion of Maryland law would incur no additional costs or administrative burdens for any entity involved. It simply grants students the autonomy to decide how and when they share private information regarding their career aspirations.

I urge you to give a favorable report to HB 1492 to benefit our youth, our Maryland National Guard, and the future of our state.

Thank you.