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3 Fox Hill Ct.
Perry Hall, MD 21128

March 7, 2025

Subj: Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 1102: State Retirement and Pension System – Military Service Credit – Eligibility

House Appropriations Committee,

Please accept this letter as my personal testimony in **_SUPPORT_** of House Bill 1102.

I served in the United States Coast Guard for 21 years 7 months and 19 days, (enlisting on January 12, 1999 and retiring on September 1, 2020), as a faithful and dedicated member of a branch of the U.S. Military. During my service I remained a resident of Maryland, where many of my fellow service members who enlisted while living in Maryland did not, as paying Maryland State Taxes was a financial burden. Many of the service members who originated in Maryland changed their residency to a state that they are affiliated with, which does not have a state income tax or a state where the tax burden was much less than that of Maryland's. During my military career, I was stationed in Maryland, Virgina, Alaska, and California, and had the ability to change my residency to Tennessee. For those not aware, Alaska and Tennessee residents do no pay a state income tax.

Following my military career, I planned to become a law enforcement officer, as becoming a law enforcement officer was my goal when I enlisted in the USCG. When I retired in 2020, I was in the application process for two different law enforcement agencies in Maryland, where I was ultimately hired by the Harford County Sheriff's Office. I was hired in 2020 to complete the academy and have worked as a patrol deputy since August of 2021. I thoroughly love the work I do and am proud to continue serving the citizens of this State.

While determining what I would do after I retired from the USCG, I thought very long and hard about applying for a federal law enforcement position, as I knew that my military service would not be credited and applied to my retirement as a HCSO Deputy who pays into the Maryland's Law Enforcement Officer's Pension System (LEOPS). If I were employed by a federal law enforcement agency, some of my military time would be credited towards my federal law enforcement pension.

With that being said, I feel passing this bill and having it signed into law would be a wonderful recruitment tool for law enforcement agencies, as many law enforcement agencies currently struggle to find applicants to fill their vacancies. The inability to fill these vacancies in law enforcement compromises the safety of community members these law enforcement officer service. The benefits of having a retired military member being a law enforcement officer is huge for the agency, as these retirees come with discipline already instilled and a life experience that sets them up to excel as a law enforcement officer in any agency.

Please strongly consider voting for this bill and other bills with would benefit Maryland's military members, veterans, and military retirees.

I respectfully request you excuse me for not being present to testify in person today, as I was unable to take off from my patrol shift, due to the shift being a minimum manpower.

Very Respectfully,

MK1 (E6) Adam Kaminski (Retired)
U.S. Coast Guard 1999-2020

DFC A. Kaminski #1293
Harford County Sheriff's Office 2020-Current