



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 20, 2025

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report** – SB0309 – Department of Veterans and Military Families – Online Registry

Dear Chair Feldman and distinguished members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition (MMC), I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE** report by the Committee on SB0309 – Department of Veterans and Military Families – Online Registry, sponsored by Senator Bryan Simonaire.

The Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF) reports that Maryland is home to approximately 360,000 veterans and another 100,000 active-duty service members, Reservists, National Guard, and dependents. Currently, their options for contacting the DVMF are through email or by phone.

A critical aspect that's missing is the ability for individual(s) to self-identify. An online registry will provide much-needed information through the usage of pre-defined categories that can be queried to improve programs, resources, or services. Having a registry is an essential tool, and through its maturity, can help implement scalable support and outreach programs that will save time and resources.

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports SB0309** and asks for a **FAVORABLE report**. An on-line registry will provide the DVMF, and the state of Maryland, with much needed historical data that can be leveraged to better augment current and future DVMF initiatives.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, nonpartisan advocacy organization comprised of 22 prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups. It represents over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers and survivors. Visit our website at <https://mdmilcoalition.org/>.

We want to thank Senator Simonaire for sponsoring this legislation and for supporting the uniformed services community.

Respectfully,

David Lutzow

David Lutzow

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Director, Maryland Military Coalition