

Visit HAGERSTOWN

& Washington County, Maryland

February 20, 2025

Senator Brian J. Feldman
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (Chair)
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

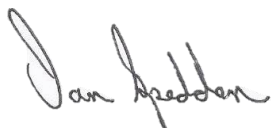
Dear Chairman Feldman,

Senate Bill 781, sponsored by Washington County Senator Paul Corderman, calls for a Task Force on the Establishment of a State Park Dedicated to Veterans' Care to study issues and estimate costs related to the establishment of a State Park dedicated to providing recreational opportunities and therapeutic services to veterans; and requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations on or before December 1, 2026.

Providing support and care for combat veterans is crucial for their successful reintegration into civilian life and overall well-being. After experiencing the physical and emotional toll of combat, veterans often face unique challenges such as PTSD, anxiety, and difficulties adapting to everyday environments. Access to mental health services, peer support groups, and vocational training can significantly aid in their healing process and help them regain a sense of purpose. Furthermore, fostering a community that understands and appreciates their sacrifices not only empowers veterans but also enriches society. Ensuring that these heroes receive the necessary resources reinforces our commitment to honor their service and contribute to their long-term success.

Providing this care in the peaceful and scenic surroundings of a beautiful State Park dedicated to that purpose is a true innovation and one that will be unique to the State of Maryland. Establishing this park will also compliment the fact that it is everyone's responsibility to care for and reintegrate our veterans.

The Hagerstown/Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) is in full support of Senate Bill 781. The CVB will be a partner in the operation of the newly established State Park dedicated to veterans' care by promoting the park nationally as a preferred destination for veterans in need.



Dan Spedden, President