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**Statement of the Maryland Federation of  
National Active and Retired Federal Employees  
Senate Finance Committee Hearing, March 5, 2025  
On SB 872 – Local Government – Hiring and Promotion Preferences for  
Veterans and Spouses of Service Members and Veterans  
(Families Serve Act)**

**(Position – FAV)**

To: Chair Beidle, Vice-Chair Hayes

Members of the Finance Committee.

I am pleased to provide our written statement today on behalf of the State Legislative Committee of the Maryland Federation - National and Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), representing approximately 317,000 federal annuitants and employees in Maryland. For the continuing benefit of the more than 3,100 Veterans who are Maryland NARFE members – and for all Maryland Veterans - we support and ask you for a favorable report on SB 872 – Local Government - Hiring and Promotion Preferences for Veterans and Spouses of Service Members and Veterans (Families Serve Act). We thank Senator J.B. Jennings for introducing this Bill.

This bill authorizes counties and municipalities to grant hiring and promotion preferences to (1) an eligible veteran; (2) the spouse of an eligible veteran who has a service-connected disability; (3) the spouse of an eligible service member; or (4) the surviving spouse of a deceased eligible veteran. Any such preference, if awarded, does not violate any State or local equal employment opportunity law. The bill further

authorizes counties or municipalities that use selection tests to hire or promote employees to award 10 credit points on the test, or their equivalent, to the same individuals. A county or municipality that elects to offer hiring or promotion preferences or credits under the bill must first adopt a local law granting the preferences or credits.

SB 872 is another step in Maryland's commitment to Veterans and their families that Governor Moore began last year. In 2024, the Assembly passed the Families Serve Act to support Maryland's military families by expanding job opportunities for military spouses. The law requires that spouses of members of any branch of the uniformed services receive a 10-point credit to selection tests when applying for state jobs, and authorizes private employers to grant hiring and promotion preferences to spouses of a full-time active-duty member of any branch of the uniformed services.

From recent events, we believe Veterans unemployment will become a crisis. Data recently released from House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D -CT-03) and Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Ranking Member Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL-25), show almost 6,000 Veterans have been fired in this first wave of Federal employee firings. The Congresswomen have stated that "Veterans are an essential part of our federal workforce, bringing their expertise to every single agency. Republicans are turning their back on them, allowing Musk to fire at least 6,000 veterans and leave them with no way to feed their families or keep a roof over their heads. This move should outrage anyone who respects our veterans and servicemembers and believes our promises to them should be upheld. Trump and Musk have launched an unwarranted and unjustified attack on the veterans and military spouses who sacrificed so much for all of us. By upending their lives and careers, these groundless firings are a disgraceful assault on heroes who admirably served our country. It is deeply offensive that this Administration would attempt to balance our budget on the backs of our veterans,"

The federal government is the single largest employer of veterans in this country, making up 30 percent of the nearly 2.3 million civilian federal workforce. The so-called "Department of Government Efficiency" (DOGE) has stated a goal to eliminate 75 percent of the federal workforce meaning to 500,000 veterans could lose their jobs.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://democrats-appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/trump-and-unchecked-billionaire-musk-have-fired-nearly-6000-veterans>

We believe that Maryland state and local agencies would welcome hard working Veterans and their spouses who will need employment because of the Trump Administration policies on Federal workers. Accordingly, we respectfully request a favorable report on SB 872.

Thank you.

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