

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary
Anne Blackfield, Deputy Secretary

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor



DATE: February 11, 2025
BILL: HB 455 – Braille Flag Memorial Act of 2025
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations
POSITION: Favorable

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk,

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is pleased to submit this letter of support for HB 455 - Braille Flag Memorial Act of 2025. This bill authorizes the Department of Veterans and Military Families to designate a location to install the American Braille Tactile flag at Maryland's veterans' cemeteries.

Maryland represents a nexus of employment, transportation, and housing opportunities for the 116,000 blind and low vision individuals who live here. Maryland is also home to military installations, blindness advocacy organizations, and veterans who served with distinction.

In 2008, Congress authorized placement of the American Braille Flag at Arlington National Cemetery as a tribute to blind veterans of all wars. Today, the American Braille flag is displayed at the National September 11 Memorial and several Veterans hospitals. The American Braille Tactile flag is an honor to display in recognition of the members of uniformed services, veterans, and others in Maryland who are blind or low vision.

I respectfully request a favorable report for this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol A. Beatty".

Carol A. Beatty
Secretary

