

HB 0548 FAV

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House Health and Government Operations Committee,

I am writing to express my support of HB0548. Maryland's National Guard, like many state Guard units, is being overused and used in a way that is contrary to its constitutional purpose. The National Guard should serve Maryland. Their absence due to foreign wars prevents them from doing their job. This bill is a positive step because:

- Constitutional law professor & Congressman Jamie Raskin sponsored nearly identical bills in 2009 & 2010 as a state senator.
- It only asks that the National Guard be used when Congress has declared war, which is their constitutional duty, not that of the Executive branch.
- It does not interfere with the ability of the Governor or the President to national emergencies. In fact it ensures that the guard is best able to serve Maryland
- It is bipartisan and supported nationwide.

Thank you for considering this important bill to empower Maryland, and better serve its citizens.

--Seth