

Maryland House of Delegates

6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Support for the Defend the Guard Act

Dear Members of the Maryland House of Delegates,

As a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Class of 2009, a resident of Maryland, and a father of two, I strongly urge you to support the Defend the Guard Act. This bill is a crucial step in ensuring that Maryland's National Guard members are only deployed into combat when Congress has fulfilled its constitutional duty by issuing a formal declaration of war.

Our National Guard members serve our communities, responding to emergencies and disasters here at home. Yet, for too long, they have been sent overseas to fight in conflicts without the proper constitutional authorization. The Founders were clear in their intent: only Congress has the power to declare war. By requiring a formal declaration before deploying our Guard, the Defend the Guard Act upholds the rule of law and reinforces our system of checks and balances.

This issue is not about politics; it is about honoring our commitment to the men and women who take an oath to serve. As someone who has dedicated part of my life to military service, I have a deep appreciation for the sacrifices that our service members and their families make. We should not ask them to risk their lives in undeclared wars.

Supporting the Defend the Guard Act is about ensuring accountability in military decisions and respecting the Constitution. I urge you to stand with Maryland's service members and their families by voting in favor of this important legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Garrett Sterling