

In Support of HB 0548 "Defend The Guard,"
Jacinda Bronaugh

Address: 7643 Midtown Road,
Fulton, Maryland 20759

District 13

House Health and Government Operations Committee,

I am a Marylander, from a family of proud veterans that sacrificed both life and limb in service to our nation, and I support the DEFEND THE GUARD movement. I ask, once again, that our Committee members please vote yes on HOUSE BILL 0548 the DEFEND THE GUARD ACT.

The DEFEND THE GUARD ACT is CONSTITUTIONALLY SOUND.

The Tenth Amendment of the Constitution solidifies the role of states in shaping national policy. The DEFEND THE GUARD ACT would ensure the federal government must follow what is codified in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution. If passed, Maryland can prevent our National Guardsmen from going into combat on foreign soil until a CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF WAR has been made.

THE DEFEND THE GUARD ACT is bi-partisan and lead by those who have served. It is a fast growing movement with supporters nationwide.

THE DEFEND THE GUARD ACT does not interfere with Governor Wes Moore's ability to deploy our Maryland Guardsmen during emergencies, and ensures their availability when needed locally.

THE DEFEND THE GUARD ACT does not interfere with our President's ability to deploy our Guardsmen in case of a national emergency.

Maryland National Guardsmen, are indispensable to the HEALTH and SAFETY of their fellow Marylanders. They are first responders, medical personnel, and other essential workers crucial to their communities. They are currently undermanned, and are being used contrary to their constitutional purpose. THE DEFEND THE GUARD ACT would ensure our Guardsman would be here, serving Maryland in times of crises.

Our states have faced a number of catastrophic events in the past few years, both natural and man made. East Palestine and Lahaina were fortunate to have Guardsmen at the ready. Many other areas were not, including Maryland.

March 26, 2024, while hundreds of Maryland Guardsmen were deployed overseas, the Francis Scott Key bridge collapsed, causing multiple fatalities, and requiring search, rescue, and recovery teams - what the Guard has been trained for. How did deploying our Guardsmen on foreign soil truly serve Maryland?

Please join other states in passing HB 0548 the DEFEND THE GUARD ACT, and help keep Maryland and MARYLANDERS safe.

Thank you for your time.

Jacinda Bronaugh