

ANNE R. KAISER
Legislative District 14
Montgomery County

Health and Government
Operations Committee

House Chair
Joint Committee on Cybersecurity,
Information Technology and
Biotechnology



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 425
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
301-858-3036 · 410-841-3036
800-492-7122 Ext. 3036
Fax 301-858-3060 · 410-841-3060
Anne.Kaiser@house.state.md.us

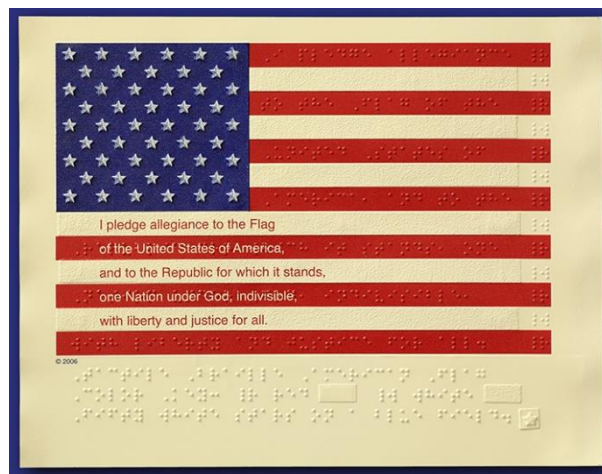
THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB455: Braille Flag Memorial Act of 2025
February 11, 2025

Madam Chair Peña-Melnyk and distinguished members of the Health & Government Operations Committee, it is my pleasure to come before you and offer testimony in favor of **House Bill 455**, requiring the Department of Veterans & Military Families to designate a location for a tactile braille American flag to be placed on the grounds of our five State veterans' cemeteries.

Maryland is home to 390,000 veterans, nearly 8% of our state's adult population. Approximately 23.5% of these veterans have disabilities, including many with visual impairments.

The tactile braille American flag, embossed with Braille dots to indicate color, is an accessible way for visually impaired individuals to experience the American flag. Created by Randolph Cabral to honor his father, a blind World War II Veteran, the tactile braille American flag has been installed in veterans' cemeteries around the country, including in Arlington National Cemetery.



By placing them in Maryland's veterans' cemeteries, this bill aims to honor the blind and visually impaired Marylanders who have served our country. It is a small yet powerful step in ensuring that all veterans and service members in Maryland are honored inclusively.

I urge a favorable report on **House Bill 455**. Thank you.