



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 14, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report** – HB0500 – Procurement Reform Act of 2025

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and distinguished members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition (MMC), I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **HB0500 – Procurement Reform Act of 2025**, by request of the Speaker of the House, the Honorable Adrienne A. Jones. This bill is a comprehensive reform and update of the Maryland State Government's procurement policies, practices, and lines of responsibility and authority.

The MMC supports this bill as it aligns with the mission of our member organization, the Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce (MDVCC). This bill expands procurement opportunities for veteran-owned small businesses and promotes workforce development through internships and apprenticeship programs. **The reforms introduced in this bill are positive for veteran-owned businesses as they:**

- Create greater access to state procurement contracts,
- Provide structured workforce development programs, and
- Establish strong oversight mechanisms to ensure fair treatment.

By expanding procurement opportunities, veteran entrepreneurs are positioned to compete on a more level playing field, which directly supports economic stability and growth. In addition, the bill's focus on workforce development through apprenticeships and internships ensures that veterans transitioning into civilian careers receive essential training and employment prospects. With stronger compliance regulations and administrative oversight, **the bill safeguards the interests of veteran-owned businesses and prevents potential discrimination or exclusion from state-funded opportunities.**


Subject: Request for FAVORABLE Report – HB0500 – Procurement Reform Act of 2025

The MMC **strongly supports HB0500** and asks for a **FAVORABLE report** from the Health and Government Operations Committee. These reforms represent a comprehensive and impactful approach to strengthening the economic well-being of Maryland's veteran community.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, nonpartisan advocacy organization comprised of 22 prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups. It represents over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers and survivors. Visit our website at <https://mdmilcoalition.org/>.

We want to thank the Speaker of the House for requesting this legislation on behalf of the Moore-Miller Administration and for supporting the veterans of Maryland's uniformed services community.

Respectfully,



David L. Dragics
COL (Ret), U.S. Army
Legislative Director



Member Organizations of the Maryland Military Coalition

Air Force Sergeants Association

American Military Society

American Minority Veterans Research Project

Association of the United States Navy

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

Disabled American Veterans

Fleet Reserve Association of Annapolis

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A

Maryland Air National Guard Retirees' Association

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Military Officers Association of America

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Military Order of the World Wars

Montford Point Marines of America

National Association of Black Veterans

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Platoon 22

Reserve Organization of America

Society of Military Widows

Veterans of Foreign Wars