



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

March 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** – SB0172 – Maryland Veterans Trust – Board of Trustees --
Membership

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 **SB0172 – Maryland Veterans Trust – Board of Trustees – Membership**, sponsored by Senator Bryan Simonaire. This bill would expand the membership of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF) to include the Secretary of Disabilities, ex officio, or the Secretary's designee.

Adding a representative from the Maryland Department of Disabilities to the Board of the MVTF would provide advocacy and guidance to the Board to ensure that, when making decisions on applications for financial assistance from veterans with disabilities, it will have input consistent with policies affecting those individuals and take their needs into consideration.

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports SB0172** and asks for a **FAVORABLE report** from the Health and Government Operations Committee. We requested the same report from the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan 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 Senator Simonaire for sponsoring this legislation and supporting the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

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

1101 Mercantile Lane, Suite 260 • Largo, Maryland 20774
(301) 583-8687 • (800) 808-4517



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