



MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
VETERANS CAUCUS

TO: Chair Vanessa E. Atterbeary  
Ways and Means Committee  
FROM: Maryland Veterans Caucus, House Membership  
DATE: February 7th, 2025

**Testimony in Favor of HB0596**

**HB0596 – Education - Dependent Children of Service Members - Advance Enrollment Procedures**

**Chair Vanessa E. Atterbeary and members of the Ways and Means Committee,**

The Maryland Veterans Caucus, House Membership respectfully requests a favorable report on HB HB0596.

This bill was sponsored by **Delegate Patterson** with the purpose of requiring a county superintendent of schools to allow a certain dependent child of a service member to advance enroll in a school in the county in a certain manner; requiring a local school system to coordinate with the parents or guardians of a certain child with a disability and the school district in a certain sending state to prevent a delay in transferring the child; requiring the Secretary of Veterans and Military Families to publish information on the advance enrollment procedures established by the Act; etc..

Supporting the education of our veterans and their families across the state is a key goal of the Veterans Caucus. This bill requires local governments and the Secretary of Veterans and Military Families to have an execute a plan so that students from military families can enroll in advance and have the proper support necessary to make it a smooth transition from wherever they are moving from. Children of military families are already put through enough stress, and it is our job to ensure that a change in schools for them goes as smoothly as possible.

The Veterans Caucus mission it to study, develop, and promote legislation designed to improve the quality of life for veterans and families in the State of Maryland in the areas of employment, education, economics, training, and health. And to assist the Department of Veterans and Military Families in achieving its mission and goals, on behalf of the veterans and their families in the State.

The Veterans Caucus House Legislative Review Board offers and **recommends support and a favorable report of HB 0596.**

Thank you,

*Mike Rogers*

Delegate Mike Rogers, House Chair, Veterans Caucus

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To study, develop, and promote legislation designed to improve the quality of life for veterans in the State of Maryland in the areas of benefits, employment, education, economics, training, and health, and to assist the Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families in achieving its mission and goals, on behalf of all veterans in the State.