



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 HB0587
HB0587 – Education - High School Diploma - Veterans of Armed Conflicts

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 HB0587 – Education - High School Diploma - Veterans of Armed Conflicts.

This bill was sponsored by **Delegate Patterson** with the purpose of authorizing certain individuals honorably discharged from military service to obtain a high school diploma if the individuals withdrew from a full-time public or private high school to enlist in the armed forces of the United States during an armed conflict authorized by the President of the United States or Congress.

There are many veterans across the country and Maryland who gave up their personal education during times of armed conflict to act selflessly and enlisted in the military. These veterans who did not earn a high school degree due to this and were honorably discharged deserve to be eligible, no matter the armed conflict they served in. The caucus supports this expansion so that those who served in any conflict are eligible to receive their high school diplomas

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 0587.**

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.