



Office of the President

**Morgan State University Testimony
Dr. David K. Wilson, President**

House Bill 623 (Delegate Edith Patterson, *et al.*)
Education - Purple Star Schools Program and Purple Star Colleges Program

February 10, 2026

Favorable

Chair Ben Barnes, Vice Chair Anne R. Keiser, and members of the Appropriations Committee. We, at Morgan, thank you for the opportunity to share our position on House Bill 623. The summary of the Bill states the following: *Altering the definition of "military-connected student" under the Purple Star Schools Program to conform with certain terms defined under State law; and establishing the Purple Star Colleges Program to recognize certain colleges that provide strong services and support for military-connected students.*

Morgan State University is the Preeminent Public Urban Research University in Maryland, known for its excellence in teaching, intensive research, effective public service and community engagement. Morgan prepares diverse and competitive graduates for success in a global interdependent society.

Altering the definition of a *military-connected student* ensures consistency across State programs and more accurately reflects the diverse family structures and service circumstances that affect today's military households. This alignment will improve clarity for schools, streamline eligibility determinations, and ensure that students who should receive support are appropriately included.

The creation of the Purple Star Colleges Program represents an important step forward in expanding institutional recognition for colleges and universities committed to fostering academic success, stability, and continuity for military-connected learners. Institutions that invest in dedicated support services—such as transfer-friendly pathways, priority registration, academic counseling, and veteran resource centers—play a vital role in promoting student retention, degree completion, and career readiness for this population.

By formally acknowledging these efforts, the State would encourage more institutions to strengthen or expand military-support programs; enhance visibility and access to high-quality post-secondary options for military-connected students and families; and reinforce Maryland's commitment to those who serve, including active-duty personnel, reservists, veterans, and their dependents.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a **favorable report** on HB623.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Wilson", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

David K. Wilson
President
Morgan State University