

NATALI FANI-GONZÁLEZ

Council President

100 Maryland Ave
Rockville, MD 20850

CHAIR
Economic Development Committee (ECON)

MEMBER
Planning, Housing and Parks Committee (PHP)



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

FAVORABLE

SB 980 – Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans
Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
Maryland General Assembly

March 9, 2026

Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in my individual capacity to support SB 980 - Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans.

As a member of the Montgomery County Council, I worked on our local implementation of §9-265, and I heard from many veterans who were excluded from the credit because the federal threshold of \$100,000 does not reflect the cost of living in counties like ours.

During our hearings, the Montgomery County Veterans Commission, the Commission on Aging, and the Chamber of Commerce all emphasized that the current income cap is too low for high-cost jurisdictions. HUD's Area Median Income data confirms this, with most Maryland counties—especially those with the largest disabled veteran populations—exceeding the existing threshold.

Veterans with 50–90% service-connected disabilities face rising housing and medical costs. Aligning eligibility with Area Median Income instead of a flat federal AGI cap is a more accurate, equitable, and locally appropriate measure. SB 980 also makes useful technical updates by aligning disability ratings with the VA system, and I appreciate Senator Salling's willingness to amend the bill to incorporate AMI.

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For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB 980 with an amendment replacing the AGI requirement with an AMI-based standard, ensuring this credit reaches the veterans it was designed to support.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,



Natali Fani-González
Council President