



**Testimony of
Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating (CRAB)
Before the Maryland Senate Finance Committee
On Senate Bill 199
January 28, 2026**

Dear Members of the Senate Finance, I am Paul Bollinger, President & CEO of Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating (CRAB) and I have been honored to serve in this position since 2016. CRAB is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year and our mission to provide sailing instruction and boating for people with disabilities and recovering warriors continues to grow.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify today in support of Senate Bill 199, Individuals With Disabilities and Service-Disabled Veterans Boating Fund - Eligible Companions. The importance of this Bill and what it will mean to thousands of people with disabilities and disabled veterans cannot be overstated. CRAB hosts thousands of Marylanders and warriors every year. We can speak first-hand about the life changing experience that sailing on the Bay can be for people who never thought they would have the opportunity to be on a boat and learn to sail.

The passage of S. 199 will provide additional financial resources for nonprofits like CRAB to bring the healing and therapeutic value offered by the water to our recovering warriors. More sailing and fishing clinics will serve to train and bring greater confidence to warriors who may suffer from PTSD, missing limbs or paralysis, or self-doubt about one's abilities. CRAB removes all of the impediments to boating and our trained volunteers focus on a warrior's abilities.

CRAB provides sailing and boating at no-charge to over 1,800 guests every year. We expect to increase this number by 25% this year while operating from the premier Annapolis Adaptive Boating Center. CRAB's water programs have expanded in the past 3 years to include Remote-Controlled Sailboat Racing for guests who don't want to leave the dock; and, fishing from a 40' power catamaran called "Dream Catcher." We can say with some authority, recovering warriors prefer fishing over sailing, but they always love being on the water.

We also are very pleased to announce that CRAB is teamed with the US Naval Academy Sailing Team to host the Recovering Warrior Sailing Regatta in September. This event brings together the next generation of military leaders and recovering warriors who have given more than most in the defense of our country for a wonderful day of competitive sailing, lunch, and an awards ceremony.

CRAB is grateful to have the opportunity to testify in support of SB 199 and we appreciate your support for its passage.