



Maryland Youth Advisory Council
c/o Governor's Office Children
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Graham Snyder, *Chair*
Joyce Yun, *Vice Chair*
Qamryn Askew, *Legislative Chair*

January 27 2025

*House Bill 270 - Military Family Inclusion Act
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee*

Dear Chair Wells and the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee,

The Maryland Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) supports the Administration's goals of expanding military family representation on state boards and commissions, and we appreciate the intent of this bill. However, we request that the committee strike lines 9-30, which alter the composition of MYAC.

We fail to see a clear connection between MYAC's mission, and the specific addition of a military family seat. While the other boards mentioned in the bill have a direct connection to military families, MYAC is focused broadly on youth policy in Maryland. Establishing a military family status seat on the council is unlike our current structure, which intends for council seats to be based on region or institution, rather than a specific demographic. The bill also presents concerns for the Governor's Office for Children (GOC), which provides staff support for the council. The proposed additional appointment creates unnecessary administrative burden for GOC, and the Department of Veterans and Military Families, as both bodies are already responsible for several appointments.

We respectfully request that lines 9-30 be struck from House Bill 270, maintaining MYAC's current appointment process. We are committed to being a partner with the Administration, and any state agency that hopes to advance Maryland's youth. We welcome the opportunity for the Department to discuss with us ways to better engage youth in the military or in military families.

Sincerely,

Qamryn Askew
Legislative Chair, MYAC
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