



**Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families
Office of the Secretary**

**WES MOORE
GOVERNOR**

**ARUNA MILLER
LT. GOVERNOR**

**ED ROTHSTEIN
ACTING SECRETARY**

**House Bill 270 - The Military Family Inclusion Act
SUPPORT**

January 27, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Wells
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
142 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF) is committed to leading veterans and their families through life's transitions, making Maryland the best state for military-connected communities. Our department is proud to submit the Military Family Inclusion Act for your consideration.

This bill is about something simple, but powerful: representation. House Bill 270 adds a family caregiver of a service-disabled veteran to the Maryland Commission on Caregiving, recognizing the invisible labor, sacrifice, and resilience of those who care for our wounded warriors. It adds a military-connected youth to the Maryland Youth Advisory Council, ensuring that young people who grow up in military families—often moving frequently, adapting constantly, and shouldering unique responsibilities—are represented. It modernizes the Veterans Commission to better reflect today's veteran and military family communities. And it makes a technical but important clarification to strengthen governance on the Veterans Trust Fund Board.

Together, these changes ensure that Maryland's councils and commissions reflect the realities of the people they serve. This bill has no fiscal impact.

Thank you for your attention to this important bill, and I respectfully ask the committee for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward C. Rothstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ed Rothstein
Acting Secretary