



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

March 20, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall
Chair, Health Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report** – SB0096 – Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services Matching Grant Program for Service Members and Veterans – Terminology – Active Service Members

Dear Chair Bagnall and distinguished members of the Health Committee,

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition¹ (MMC) and as its Legislative Director, I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on ***SB0096, Sheila E. Hixson Behavioral Health Services Matching Grant Program for Service Members and Veterans – Terminology – Active Service Members***, sponsored by Senator Bryan Simonaire. This bill is a continuation of the centralization and modernization of Maryland's Code with respect to military terms, synchronizing it with the federal code related to the term "service members." **SB0096 was unanimously passed by the Senate.**

The MMC supports this bill as it corrects outdated language in Article – Health – General, § 7.5-210, subparagraphs (a) (2) (i), (a) (2) (iii), (a) (2) (iv), and (a) (2) (v); subparagraph (b) (2); and subparagraph (e) (1) (ii).

The Maryland Military Coalition **supports SB0096** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report from the Health Committee.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of 22 prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups. It represents over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers and survivors. Visit our website at <https://mdmilcoalition.org/>.

We want to thank Senator Simonaire for sponsoring this legislation and his strong commitment to the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

David L. Dragics
COL USA (Ret)
Legislative Director

¹ See attached list of member organizations.



Member Organizations of the Maryland Military Coalition

Air Force Sergeants Association

American Military Society

American Minority Veterans Research Project

Association of the United States Navy

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

Disabled American Veterans

Fleet Reserve Association of Annapolis

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A

Maryland Air National Guard Retirees' Association

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Military Officers Association of America

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Military Order of the World Wars

Montford Point Marines of America

National Association of Black Veterans

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Reserve Organization of America

Society of Military Widows

Veterans of Foreign Wars