

In **Support** of **HB 1319**, “Defend the Guard.”

**Scott Spaulding**  
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**District 46**

House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Scott Spaulding; I am a lifelong Marylander, veteran of four combat deployments, Purple Heart recipient, member of the Air National Guard, and Baltimore County teacher.

I am strongly in **support of HB1319**

- 1) Maryland’s Guard is being deployed imminently to Central Command where active undeclared warfare is ongoing.
- 2) The bill is essential to restore separation of powers. You cannot allow a President to initiate war, and you cannot allow the Attorney General to determine the House's position on a bill.
- 3) This bill is constitutional. JAMIE RASKIN SPONSORED NEARLY IDENTICAL BILLS IN 2009 and 2010. Most of you would agree that he is knowledgeable of the constitution.
- 4) There is not a threat to funding. it is not plausible that he would respond to the passage of this bill by cutting the budget.
- 5) This bill **ONLY** affects combat deployments overseas without a declaration of war. If you want the President to go through Congress before sending the guard to combat this is the **ONLY** way to make that happen.

This bill does not interfere in any way with the ability of the Governor or the President to respond to domestic emergencies, in fact it explicitly states that the guard may be called forth to suppress insurrection and provide support to civil authorities. Passing this bill may ensure that Maryland’s guard is more available to serve Maryland. Maryland's Air Guard was nearly sent to Afghanistan in spring 2019, would not have been available for covid response. In 2020 Maryland’s Guard had 3 units deployed to Afghanistan for the better part of a year.

Consider the situation of Louisiana’s guard, after returning from a year in Syria the Louisiana guard was pulled directly into covid response and struggled with burnout. The headline read, “Breakneck Pace of Crises Keeps National Guard Away from Home.” The Louisiana guard was also in Iraq when Katrina hit, there was no consideration by DOD about pulling them away in hurricane season. The delayed response to the crisis was a result unchecked guard deployments.

When Maryland’s Guard is deployed high-needs schools will be deprived of teachers, a sports teams will lose coaches, do without policemen, volunteer firefighters, and electricians, among other members of the community. All of these effects will be dispersed throughout the community. This only scratches the surface of reasons I favor this bill.

Thank you very much,

Scott M. Spaulding