

Good Afternoon,

My name is Jason Laird.

I live in Frederick, MD - District 3.

I submit written testimony today in favor of [HB 1319] - Defend the Guard.

How many of you were in favor of George Bush's war in Iraq?

Just imagine if you could have done something then to prevent our Maryland National Guard troops from being deployed into the middle east over these last 20+ years. Before the so-called "War on Terror", when folks signed up for the National Guard, they understood that they might be deployed for **days** or **weeks** at a time in MD or neighboring states for Natural Disasters or other domestic crises. They did not expect to be deployed for **months** or **years** at a time on the other side of the world - fighting a hot war in a strange place. That's unexpected time away from their families, jobs or their small businesses for much longer than ever before.

Well, this session you have a chance to do something about this situation going forward. How many of your constituents would regard you poorly if you failed to act when you had an opportunity to act. If the President wants to abuse our National Guard further by sending them into Iran, how many of your constituents would be excited and overjoyed at this prospect? If you fail to act on this legislation, we will let them know that you had the chance to do **SOMETHING** to put up a roadblock in front of this administration, but chose to do nothing.

Now imagine another scenario. One in which Governor Moore tells this administration to go pound sand. He can't have Maryland's National Guard unless Congress officially declares war. How much more satisfied would your constituents be in this scenario? Please Defend our National Guard from the prospect of another misadventure in the Middle East this time by the Trump administration. Please work for our National Guard families. Please work for your constituents. Please do your part for our country.

Thank you,
Jason Laird