



March 24, 2026

The Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins  
The Honorable Jessica Feldmark  
House Ways and Means Committee  
130 Taylor House Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request for a **FAVORABLE Report** – SB 009 – Sales and Use Tax – Tax-Free Day – Veterans’ Day

Dear Chairman Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark and Distinguished Members of the House Ways and Means Committee

On behalf of the Commissioned Officers Association, I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE Report** by the Committee on **SB 009 – Sales and Use Tax – Tax-Free Day – Veterans’ Day**. According to the Department of Veterans and Military Families [2024 report](#), Maryland is home to 360,098 veterans, of which over 8,500 are currently serving or retired members of the United States Public Health Service and its Ready Reserve. This bill provides a tax-free day on Veterans’ Day where the **price of the item for sale is less than \$2,000**.

We realize that this Committee is dealing with a \$1.4B deficit and that you are looking at many ways to reduce the deficit. However, the state currently provides **ONE WEEK** of tax-free school shopping in August, where qualifying apparel and footwear \$100 or less, per item, are exempt from the state sales tax. Additionally, the first \$40 of a backpack or bookbag purchase is also tax-free. Getting two kids ready for school exceeds \$2000. A focused parent can use this tax-free period multiple times and get significant savings by simply paying attention.

Shouldn’t a veteran, most on fixed incomes, have **ONE** chance per year to buy a washer and dryer or a refrigerator tax-free? And, should they make that purchase, won’t they invest those dollars saved in another purchase—hopefully from a Maryland small business? We truly believe so and we believe **it is the LEAST that we can** do to honor their service to our Country and the sacrifices that they have made on our behalf.

Maryland is a high-cost state. We have historically been losing veterans (and senior citizens) every year as they move to less expensive parts of the county. This declining population is, in part, a factor in our budget deficit.

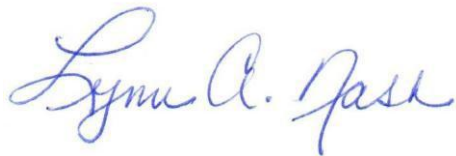
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We ask that you consider *making a veteran's life a little easier* by granting a **ONE DAY, tax-free day** on Veterans' Day. The Commissioned Officers Association ***strongly supports*** SB 009 - Sales and Use Tax – Tax-Free Day – Veterans' Day, and asks you for a **FAVORABLE report**.

The mission of COA is to protect and enhance the public health and safety of the United States by supporting and advancing the interests of the Commissioned Corps and its officers. COA is the only organization working exclusively on behalf of the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

We wish to thank Senator Brooks for sponsoring this important legislation and his on-going, support of **ALL** of the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn A. Nash". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynn A. Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN  
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