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Legislative District 6  
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Budget and Taxation Committee

Public Safety, Transportation,  
and Environment Subcommittee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 24, 2021

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Re: SB 656 / HB 874 Maryland Veterans Trust Fund – CAM for Veterans –  
Established (David Perez Military Heros Act (End 22 a Day))

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

Thank you for accepting this letter of support for SB 656 / HB 874. This bill would work toward addressing our limited alternative health care options for veterans.

Post-traumatic stress disorder is a very real and very serious issue that many of our veterans face today, and regular medical options may not always be the best form of treatment for them. There is a growing body of studies that are beginning to show that alternative treatment is helpful for veterans suffering from PTSD and other mental health issues.

This bill will allow veterans who are suffering from PTSD and other mental health issues to be able to seek complementary and alternative medical treatments or CAM as it is known. These are treatments such as acupuncture, yoga, massage therapy, and relaxation treatments. Many times they can be unavailable either because of the inability to get the treatments in a timely manner or because they may not be accepted. This leaves a veteran in a tough spot of trying to self-fund for treatment. This bill would work to help bridge that gap by allowing funding for these alternative treatments so that our veterans can get the help they need. For those who have done so much to protect our freedoms, I believe this is great way to give back and help them, and I urge a favorable report on SB 656 / HB 874.

Sincerely,  
Senator Johnny Ray Salling