



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 656-
Maryland Veterans Trust Fund – CAM for
Veterans Grant Program – Established (David Peerez Military Heroes Act
(End 22 as Day)

Chair Guzzone and distinguished members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee...The Maryland Military Coalition is in strong support for Senate Bill 656.

This bill would provide need funds for rehabilitative care for those veterans who have been injured psychologically by such trauma as PTSD and other stringent mental disorders and stresses from military service many occurring in combat zones.

The MMC strongly supports this measure and believe it would be a positive first step towards curbing and, hopefully, eliminating veteran suicide now believed to be as high as 22 per day, family turmoil and upheaval, homelessness among former service personnel and, unfortunately in some cases, criminal activity.

We view the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund, administered by our State Department of Veterans Affairs as the ideal vehicle for dispensing the needed revenues to those in need and to qualified professionals which we envision would be accomplished under the section 9-914.4.4 (E) (1) **APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROESESSES; AND (2) ELIGIBITY STANDARDS.**

In closing, we believe Senate Bill 656 is a vital measure and a major step toward the healing for community members who live in daily desperation. The Maryland Military Coalition, comprised of 17 active service and veteran service organizations urgently request a favorable report and commend Senator Sallings for his compassion to the active military and his fellow veterans.

Yours, respectfully,

Patrick Guibao

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Vice President and
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