



THE MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT ON BEHALF OF HOUSE BILL 604

Madam Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair, Pena-Melnyk and distinguished members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee,

The Maryland Military Coalition represents 17 military and veteran service organizations who serve over 150,000 men and women who serve or have served our nation in times of crises and peace.

All Maryland residents deserve proper interment and this is acutely true for our veteran community who during their lifetime sacrificed greatly so that we can live a life of dignity and freedom.

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs which among their many duties to veterans manage five cemeteries throughout Maryland is ideally positioned to meet the needs of these unclaimed cremains in a proper, honorable and dignified manner. Its network with numerous veteran service organizations based in our State will be ideal for handling this delicate matter in an honorable, dignified manner.

We ask the Educational, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee to render a favorable report on House Bill 604 and we commend Delegate Kipke for his zealous compassion to this most essential task as well as his continuous support for the active military and its veterans.

Yours, Respectfully

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