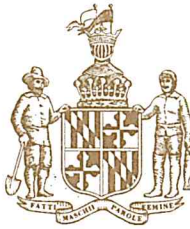


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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 234

***PUBLIC SCHOOLS –
PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS PROGRAM – ESTABLISHMENT***

EDUCATION, HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 3, 2022

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 234 is a very straightforward bill that would simply create a recognition program through the Maryland State Department of Education for public schools who cater to military-connected students and their families.

Schools would be designated as 'Purple Star Schools' if they meet a few requirements in providing support services for students with family members who serve in the Armed Forces. These requirements would include designating a school staff liaison for military-connected students, creating a webpage relating to resources for said students, and instigating a partnership or recognition event connected to the military community or local military installations.

The aim of this legislation would be to help ease the adjustments of military-connected students and to foster even better relationships between local military installations and their communities. Because of the sacrifices made by the children of those who serve in the Armed Services, we need to do everything within our power to ensure their success. This legislation would help to achieve that aim.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 234.