



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

Oral Testimony In Support of HB 461 Recommend FAVORABLE Report Robert Norton, President

Madam Chair Atterbeary and distinguished members of the Ways and Means Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **FAVOR** of Delegate Rogers' bill, "Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Military Retirement Income," HB461.

My name is Bob Norton. I am the President of the 19 military and veterans groups of the Maryland Military Coalition. I am a retired Army officer and also the current President of the Military Officers Association of America Maryland Council of Chapters.

The Maryland Military Coalition strongly supports HB 461. In relation to its relatively small population in our nation, Maryland has one of the highest, if not the highest concentration of military bases in the nation, which contribute a remarkable 15% of our state's GDP according to a Towson University economic study. HB 461 would raise the current 'income tax subtraction' on military retired pay from \$15,000 to \$20,000. The Coalition believes this issue should be seen through the lens of its enormous potential to benefit our state's economy by attracting and retaining highly qualified and experienced women and men who have successfully completed challenging and often dangerous careers in service to our nation. They have the "right stuff" to help lead our economy forward. And these days, they have lots of choices on where to live and work when it's time to take off their uniforms, including the 35 states that do not tax military retired pay at all

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan organization with approximately 150,000 members including currently serving, National Guard and Reserves, veterans, retirees, their families, caretakers and survivors.

The Maryland Military Coalition recommends a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 461, "Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Military Retirement Income," and we thank DEL Rogers for his leadership on behalf of Maryland's military-connected community.

Thank you.

Robert F. Norton
Colonel, USA-ret.
President
Maryland Military Coalition
District 19

1101 Mercantile Lane, Suite 260 • Largo, Maryland 20774
(301) 583-8687 • (800) 808-4517