

In **Support** of **HB 299 "Defend The Guard,"**
Jacinda Bronaugh

Address **7643 Midtown Road,**
Fulton, Maryland 20759

District 13

House Health and Government Operations Committee,

I am a registered voter in Fulton Maryland, who comes from a proud veteran family, and I support HOUSE BILL 299 the DEFEND THE GUARD ACT.

Maryland National Guardsmen, are indispensable to the HEALTH and SAFETY of their fellow Marylanders. They are first responders, medical personnel, and other essential workers crucial to their communities. They are currently undermanned, and are being used contrary to their constitutional purpose. THE DEFEND THE GUARD ACT would ensure our Guardsman would be here, serving their intended purpose in times of crises. East Palestine, and Lahaina were fortunate to have Guardsmen at the ready, while New Orleans was not. Can Maryland afford a Katrina situation?

THE DEFEND THE GUARD ACT is bi-partisan and lead by those who have served, and their families nationwide.

THE DEFEND THE GUARD ACT does not interfere with Governor Wes Moore's ability to deploy our Maryland Guardsmen during emergencies, and ensures their availability when needed locally.

THE DEFEND THE GUARD ACT does not interfere with our President's ability to deploy our Guardsmen in case of a national emergency.

The DEFEND THE GUARD ACT would ensure the federal government must follow what is codified in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution. If passed, Maryland can prevent our National Guardsmen from going into combat on foreign soil until a CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF WAR has been made.

Please join other states in passing HB 299 the DEFEND OUR GUARD ACT,
and help keep Maryland and MARYLANDERS safe.

Thank you for your time.

Jacinda Bronaugh