



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 9, 2024

The Honorable Frank Kendall  
Secretary of the Air Force  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Kendall,

We write on behalf of the residents of our great state with serious concerns. An initiative is being considered to eliminate the flying wing of the 175th Maryland Air National Guard at Warfield Air National Guard Base in Middle River, Maryland. We implore you to reconsider this decision and ensure the future of this historic and high-performing unit. Our congressional partners have also asked you to keep a flying mission at Warfield Air National Guard Base for the Maryland Air National Guard.

The Maryland citizen airmen and airwomen at the Maryland Air National Guard have been in active flying missions since 1921. The Maryland Air National Guard has participated in dozens of deployments throughout the world since September 11, 2001. The Warfield Air Base is the home of six hundred pilots and maintainers and has won numerous Air Force awards for its readiness. The loss of a flight mission in Maryland could mean ending the direct careers of six hundred highly qualified military personnel and thousands of indirect careers.

Just this month, the National Park Service announced that Baltimore County, Maryland, would be added to the American World War II Heritage Cities Program which honors the contributions of local towns, cities, counties, and their citizens who stepped into the workforce to support America's war effort. Middle River and this base are an essential part of our country's aviation history and were critical in supplying aircraft during the Second World War. Not only of historic value, if the flight mission is taken away from the Maryland Air National Guard, Martin State Airport and the State of Maryland will suffer a substantial negative economic impact of tens of millions of dollars.

Furthermore, Maryland would be the only state in the nation without a National Guard flying wing. During a recent briefing from the Maryland Air National Guard regarding the potential removal of the flight mission, the leadership emphasized that Maryland's mission is the only location in the nation with a joint force of fighter operations and offensive and defensive full-spectrum intelligence operations. The long-term training and exquisite skill set necessary to maintain this joint force is only found in Maryland. This potential removal would hurt our national security because of

the importance of swift decision-making in modern warfare. This is a strategic advantage that we cannot lose.

We respectfully request that you preserve the flying wing of the mighty 175th Maryland Air National Guard.

Sincerely,



Dana Stein  
Speaker Pro Tem  
District 11B



Delegate Catherine M.  
Forbes  
District 43B



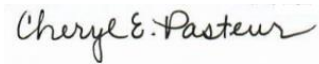
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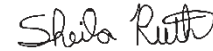
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