DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
BALTIMORE MILITARY ENTRANCE PROCESSING STATION
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FORT GEORGE G. MEADE MD 20755-2995

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

April 7, 2010

The Honorable Sheila E. Hixson, Chairman
Ways and Means Committee
130 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: **Senate Bill 778**

Dear Chairman Hixson:

I wish to bring to light the likely adverse impact of the subject bill on Military Recruiting in high schools. If enacted, SB 778 would require public schools that administer the **Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)** to choose reporting *Option 8* which will automatically prohibit the general release of any student information and test **line scores** to military recruiters.

Our current Maryland student testing program does not require schools to release personal information i.e. address, phone number, and SSN. Although Federal Law ("No Child Left Behind Act") requires release of high school juniors and seniors' addresses and phone numbers to recruiters (unless parents opt out in writing), **SB 778 prevents the release of test line scores.** These line scores identify military occupation(s) for which a student (applicant) is qualified. The line scores enable recruiters, applicants, and influencers to enter a meaningful dialog as to potential military career opportunities prior to ever stepping into a Military Processing Station. This critical step in the recruitment process is lost if schools are forced into Option 8.

Much of the rhetoric behind the bill is bent on disrupting any efforts to build, support, or sustain the military. There has been a disinformation campaign targeted at school officials throughout Maryland, northern Virginia, and DC that preys upon school officials' fears of potential litigation associated with safeguarding students' personal information. Ultimately, the goal is to dissuade high schools from ASVAB testing all together. SB 778 would be first step along this path.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Beveridge
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Commanding Officer
Baltimore Military Entrance
and Processing Station