



**Peter Franchot**  
Comptroller

## TESTIMONY OF COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT

### Senate Bill 65 - Maryland Veterans Trust Fund - Income Tax Checkoff (SUPPORT)

*For Presentation to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee*

*January 27, 2010*

Chairman Currie, Vice-Chairman Kasemeyer and members of the Committee, it is my pleasure to provide testimony in **support** of **Senate Bill 65 - Maryland Veterans Trust Fund - Income Tax Checkoff**. I want to thank Governor O'Malley, Lieutenant Governor Brown and Secretary Chow for their action on this very timely issue.

It is customary for the Comptroller's Office not to take a position on income tax checkoffs; however, Senate Bill 65 is an exception. The State of Maryland owes a great debt to those men and women who have served our country honorably.

In the 2009 legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill 1561 which created a Veterans Trust Fund. This fund was established to provide financial assistance for veterans and their families. Senate Bill 65 will allow for individual tax payers to voluntarily have a portion of their tax refund go toward the Veterans Trust Fund.

The introduction of this legislation is very timely. The United States is engaged in two wars abroad. More and more men and women from Maryland are responding to the call to serve our country, and more are coming home as honorably discharged veterans in need of financial assistance. It is my hope that this legislation will be passed into law, and that Maryland taxpayers will have yet another opportunity to show their gratitude to those who have given so much in the defense of freedom.

It is in this spirit that I join the Governor, Lt. Governor and Secretary in requesting a favorable vote on this legislation. Thank you for this opportunity to provide this testimony, and for your consideration.

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