



## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF FAUQUIER COUNTY**

**COURT AND OFFICE BUILDING**

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February 9, 2026

Dear Members of the Virginia General Assembly:

On behalf of the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our strong support for the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) and our firm opposition to House Bill 1374 and House Bill 1377.

Founded in 1839, the Virginia Military Institute is a historic and distinguished public institution of higher education within the Commonwealth of Virginia. VMI's unique military educational mission has, for more than 180 years, produced generations of leaders who have served with distinction in the armed forces, in public service, and in civilian professions. House Bill 1374 proposes to amend Title 23.1 of the Code of Virginia by dissolving the VMI Board of Visitors and transferring governance of the Institute to the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University. House Bill 1377 would establish a task force to evaluate whether VMI should continue as a state-supported, publicly funded institution.

The Fauquier County Board of Supervisors is deeply concerned that these legislative proposals would fundamentally alter VMI's governance structure, compromise its distinct mission, and erode the institutional independence that has been central to its success for more than a century and a half. We recognize and value the vital role VMI plays in the Commonwealth of Virginia, in national defense, and in the education and development of principled citizen-soldiers.

Thank you for your consideration of our position on this important matter.

Respectfully,

Kevin T. Carter

Chairman, Fauquier County Board of Supervisors

## RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE  
AND IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 1374 AND HOUSE BILL 1377

WHEREAS, the Virginia Military Institute (VMI), founded in 1839, is a historic and distinguished public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia, with a unique military educational mission that has produced generations of leaders in military, public service, and civilian life; and

WHEREAS, VMI operates under a statutorily established Board of Visitors that has long been responsible for the governance, oversight, and preservation of the Institute's mission, traditions, and standards of excellence; and

WHEREAS, VMI has produced approximately 26,000 graduates during its 186 years of Existence, many of which have served the United States of America, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Marine Corps, including over 285 graduates who have obtained the rank of general or flag officer; and

WHEREAS, VMI is the only Virginia Institution of higher education with a state cadet program and has produced leaders in the military and in education, medicine, law, and engineering; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1374 proposes amendments to Title 23.1 of the Code of Virginia that would dissolve the VMI Board of Visitors and place the Institute under the governance of the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1377 establishes a task force to evaluate whether the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) should remain a state-supported, publicly funded institution; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Fauquier County is concerned that these legislative proposals would fundamentally alter VMI's governance structure, compromise its distinct mission, and diminish the institutional independence that has been central to its success for more than 180 years; and

WHEREAS, Fauquier County recognizes the value of VMI to the Commonwealth of Virginia, to national defense, and to the education and development of principled citizen-soldiers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026, That the Board does hereby expresses its support for the Virginia Military Institute and its opposition to House Bill 1374 and House Bill 1377; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors does hereby urge the Virginia General Assembly to reject both House Bill 1374 and House Bill 1377.

*A Copy Teste*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janelle J. Downes".

*Janelle J. Downes, County Administrator  
Clerk to the Board of Supervisors*