



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 112

Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, & Military Spouses -
Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, & Permitting

January 18, 2022

Chairwoman Pendergrass and Honorable Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee,

My name is CAPTAIN Lynn Nash. I am the Communications Director for the Maryland Military Coalition and I served 30 years in both the Army and the United States Public Health Service, retiring in 2017. I also serve in other volunteer capacities. Most recently, I've been a volunteer vaccinator with Maryland Responds, the Medical Reserve Corps, where I have personally given over 15,000 COVID vaccines. I am only able to vaccinate now because Governor Hogan used his Emergency Powers as part of the Emergency Declaration to allow practitioners from other states to help.

Currently, Maryland regulates twenty health occupation categories- one of which is nursing. House Bill 112 allows for the health occupation boards to issue a full or temporary expedited license, certification or registration to a service member, veteran or military spouse if they meet the requirements. The health occupations board would issue the credential in an expedited fashion after receiving a completed application. The temporary license is valid for six months.

When I was a federal nurse, my Vermont license was recognized. To practice or serve as nursing faculty today in Maryland, where there was a significant shortage of nurses BEFORE the pandemic, I would have to go through the onerous and frankly expensive process of getting licensed in Maryland. I would need to submit passport photos, an application with a permanent address, a completed Maryland fingerprint card, an application for a national criminal record check and \$140.00. This would be in addition to maintaining my original Vermont license, which costs \$190.00.

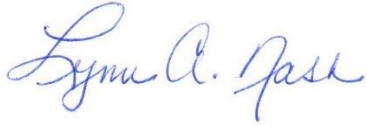
I have two requests. I recommend the term "armed forces" be changed to 'uniformed services' in conformance with Maryland law. (See Maryland Code, General Provisions, Section 1-117). As you know there are now eight Uniformed Services, but only six armed forces —the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and the Space Force under the Defense Department; and the Coast Guard under the Dept. of Transportation. But, there are significant numbers of USPHS and NOAA Corps commissioned officers in our state who must be included according to Maryland law. In addition, please reconsider the bill's restriction on "veterans" to those who have retired within the year of their application, especially in light of current shortages, since the objective is to improve the number of available practitioners in the state.

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The Maryland Military Coalition, is a voluntary, non-partisan organization representing 18 veteran service organizations who, in turn, serve over 150,000 Maryland uniformed services men and women and their families. The Coalition strongly supports House Bill 112 and asks for your favorable report.

Thank you to Delegate Crosby for sponsoring this important legislation.

Very respectfully,

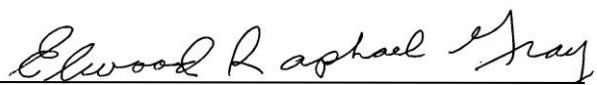
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn A. Nash". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Lynn A. Nash, CAPTAIN, U.S. Public Health Service (Ret)
Communications Director

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition


Air Force Sergeants Association


American Military Society

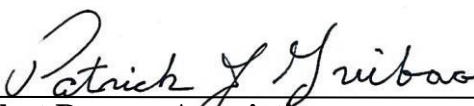

American Minority Veterans Research Project



Association of the United States Navy



Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service

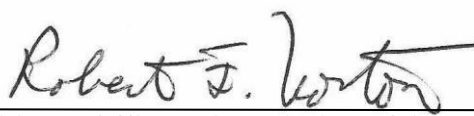

Disabled American Veterans


Distinguished Flying Cross Association


Fleet Reserve Association


Jewish War Veterans of the USA


Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association



Military Officers Association of America

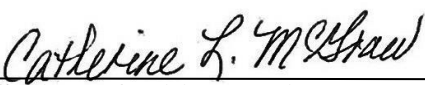

Military Order of the Purple Heart


National Association for Black Veterans


Reserve Organization of America


NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers


Reserve Organization of America


Society of Military Widows


Veterans of Foreign Wars