



Commissioned Officers Association
of the United States Public Health Service
Protecting the interests of the USPHS Commissioned Corps since 1951

January 23, 2020

Chairman Paul G. Pinsky
Members of the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Subject: **Senate Bill 341 - SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

The United States Public Health Service (USPHS) is one of the eight uniformed services (including the new Space Command) and is composed of over 6,500 officers with Public Health and Clinical Expertise. There are approximately 2,200 USPHS officers that reside in Maryland of which 1,500 are currently on Active Duty and the remaining 700 are retired.

The Commissioned Officers Association (COA) represents and advocates for the interests of USPHS officers. A major priority of the COA is to ensure that the Commissioned Corps officers maintain parity with our sister uniformed services.

SB341 updates existing law to ensure that a member of any of the eight uniformed services is eligible for a Home for Veterans supervised by the Department of Veteran Affairs. This technical revision basically changes "armed forces" to "uniformed services" and follows the.

The Commissioned Officers Association and the Maryland-based officers that I represent **STRONGLY SUPPORT** passage of **Senate Bill 341**. We ask the Committee to report a **Favorable** recommendation as the bill progresses through the legislative process.

Thank you for supporting ALL Maryland Veterans!

Very sincerely yours,

Lynn A. Nash PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN
CAPTAIN, U.S. Public Health Service (Retired)

Cc:
Senator Melony Griffith
The American Legion Department of Maryland