



# MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

*Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy*

Statement of Lynn A. Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN  
CAPT (R), U.S. Public Health Service  
Communications Director

SB 187 – Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants -  
February 8, 2023

## **FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

For the record, my name is CAPTAIN Lynn Nash. I am the Communications Director for the Maryland Military Coalition. I am a retired nurse, who completed over 30 years of active-duty service in both the Army and the U.S. Public Health Service. I am well acquainted with the issue.

No one wants to have a health care professional taking care of them or their loved ones who isn't competent and cannot read and write in the English language. This bill prohibits a health occupations board from denying a license, certification, or registration to an immigrant if the individual meets the requirements. For those unaware, the requirements for licensure of a foreign graduate are extensive. The applicant must:

- [Meet the educational requirements](#)
- [Complete a foreign-educated nurses \(FEN\) course](#)
- [Take and pass an English language proficiency test, if mandated](#)
- [Pass the state's National Council Licensing Examination-Registered Nurse \(NCLEX – RN\)](#)
- [Obtain credential evaluation](#)
- [Find a nursing recruiting agency or US-based employer](#)
- [Apply and obtain an RN immigrant visa/green card](#)

These requirements are all-encompassing and ensure that the applicant has the competencies needed to practice safely and can communicate both orally and in writing in the English language. As such, this legislation makes sense, especially in light of the current shortage of providers here in the state.

The Maryland Military Coalition, is a **voluntary**, non-partisan **organization representing 19 veteran service organizations**, who, in turn, serve over 150,000 Maryland uniformed services men, women and their families. The Coalition **strongly supports** Senate Bill SB 187 – Health

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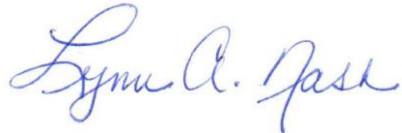
**1101 Mercantile Lane, Suite 260 • Largo, Maryland 20774**  
**(301) 583-8687 • (800) 808-4517**

February 8, 2023

Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants and asks for your ***favorable report.***

Thank you to Senator Kagan for sponsoring this important legislation.

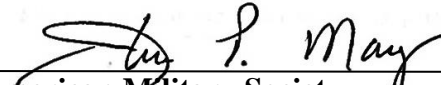
Respectfully,

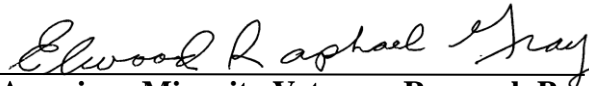
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn A. Nash". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Lynn A. Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN  
CAPT (R), U.S. Public Health Service  
Communications Director  
Maryland Military Coalition


**Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition**

  
Air Force Sergeants Association

  
American Military Society


  
American Minority Veterans Research Project

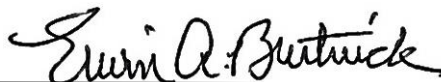
  
Association of the United States Navy


  
Commissioned Officers Association of the  
US Public Health Service

  
Disabled American Veterans

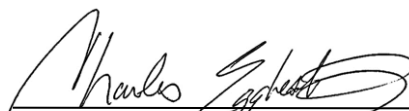
  
Distinguished Flying Cross Association


  
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

  
Montford Point Marines of America

  
National Association for Black Veterans

  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

  
NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

  
Reserve Organization of America

  
Society of Military Widows

  
Veterans of Foreign Wars