



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 22, 2023

Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
Room 241
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

HB 475 – Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact - **Request for Favorable Report**

Dear Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk and Honorable Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee

Maryland was the first state to join the National Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) in 1999. Nurses with a multistate license can practice in any of the twenty-five NLC participating states. Maryland also participates in the Interstate Medical License Compact and the Physical Therapy Compact.

Currently there exists additional compacts in Psychology, Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Counseling. There is work underway to establish an interstate compact for Social Workers.

Maryland is experiencing its worst shortage in healthcare providers ever. The [2022 State of Maryland's Health Care Workforce Report](#), released by the Maryland Hospital Association (MHA), found that there is a workforce crisis in Maryland's healthcare sector. The report detailed that one in four hospital nursing positions are vacant, and also cited high staff turnover and an insufficient nursing pipeline.

Similarly, the [Maryland Hospital Association](#) found that overall **Maryland is 16 percent below** the national average for number of physicians available for clinical practice. **The most severe problems occur in rural parts of the state** and will get much worse by 2015, based on the study's results. The biggest statewide gaps occur in **Primary Care, Emergency Medicine**, Anesthesiology, Hematology/Oncology, Thoracic Surgery and Vascular Surgery, Psychiatry, and Dermatology.

The situation in **Southern Maryland, Western Maryland, and the Eastern Shore** is the most troubling. All three regions fall significantly below national levels in active practicing physicians. Southern Maryland already has critical shortages in 25 of the 30 physician categories (83.3%), Western Maryland 20 of 30 (66.7%), and the Eastern Shore 18 of 30 (60.0%).

Page 2

HR 475 - Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact - **Request for Favorable Report**

February 22, 2023

An Advance Practice Registered Nurse can be a Nurse Practitioner, a Certified Nurse Midwife, a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist or a Clinical Nurse Specialist, which includes a sub-category of Nurse Psychotherapist. These are all critical skills and critical shortages here in Maryland. These specialties are all independent practitioners, capable of extending care to all regions of our state, especially those where there have been consistent healthcare shortages.

The APRN Compact, adopted August 12, 2020, allows an advanced practice registered nurse to hold one multistate license with a privilege to practice in other compact states. The APRN Compact will be implemented *when 7 states have enacted the legislation*.

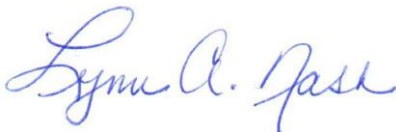
Maryland is home to approximately 390,000 veterans, 30,000 active-duty service members and 18,000 reservists/national guard members. In addition, there are 130,000 veteran households with children and another 60,000 reserve/national guard/active-duty dependents. They deserve improved access to care. Passing this bill would accomplish that.

It's time that Maryland takes the lead again and passes HB 475, the Advance Practice Nurse Compact, now.

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 and women and their families. The Coalition *strongly supports* House Bill 475 and asks for your **favorable report**.

Thank you to Delegate Rosenberg for sponsoring this important legislation.

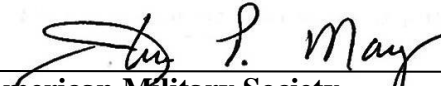
Respectfully,

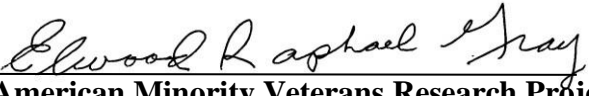
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn A. Nash". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

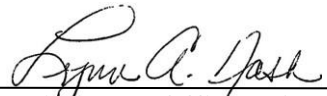
Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition


Air Force Sergeants Association

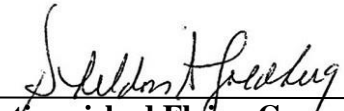

American Military Society



American Minority Veterans Research Project


Association of the United States Navy



Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service


Disabled American Veterans

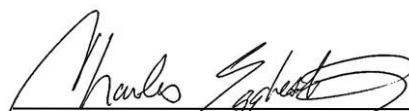

Distinguished Flying Cross Association


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


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