



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

Statement of CAPT Lynn Nash, PhD, RN
Maryland Military Coalition

SB 202- Income Tax – Caregiver Tax Credit
March 27, 2024

FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Barnes and Members of the House Appropriations:

My name is CAPT Nash. I’m the Communications Director for the Maryland Military Coalition, a group of 21 Veteran Service Organizations serving almost half of Maryland veterans.

I’m here to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 202. As a nurse, who was a caregiver to both my mother and father, while working full time, I understand the angst that caregivers feel when faced with competing demands. Do you know that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention see caregivers as an essential public health service, assisting persons to remain in their homes. The CDC believes that caregiving is an Emerging Public Health Issue”. The President agrees. He signed an Executive Order on supporting caregivers on April 18, 2023.

In my written testimony, I provided you with a lot of statistics. I want to repeat just a couple:

- 53M U.S adults, or 73% of all employees, are currently caregivers. This includes 5.5M who are caring for wounded, ill and injured service members and veterans.
- The number of people providing care and working outside the home today is 1 in 5
- 56% of caregivers are women.
- Almost 25% of people taking care of an elderly or sick adult have children under the age of 18. You know them as the “sandwich generation.”
- Today, the average time spent in caregiving has increased to 26 hours per week, with more than a third providing care more than 30 hours a week.
- 29% of caregivers have had to reduce their work hours to provide care, despite the out-of-pocket costs. The average is \$72 hundred or 26% of their total income.

Some average costs in Maryland:

- A homemaker or homemaker health aide
- Adult Daycare

2021 Costs	Estimated 2031 Costs
\$61,776	\$83,002
\$23,140	\$31,098

When the burden becomes too great

- Assisted Living
- Nursing home

\$58,800	\$79,022
\$124,100	\$166,780

Who knows what inflation will do to those costs?

Our Maryland veterans and service retirees cannot afford caregiving with an average retired pay of \$32,000. VA Disability won't be enough to cover these costs. Help keep our disabled and elderly veterans remain at home by giving their caregivers a tax credit.

The Maryland Military Coalition, strongly supports Senate Bill 202 – Income Tax -Caregiver Tax Credit and asks for your favorable report.

Thank you, Senator Benson, for sponsoring this very important legislation.

Attachments:

1. Genworth Maryland Annual Cost of Care
2. Genworth Estimated Maryland Cost of Care 2031

Maryland - State

Annual Cost

2021

2031

Home Health Care

Homemaker Services

\$61,776

\$83,022

Homemaker Health Aide

\$61,776

\$83,022

Based on 44 hours per week by 52 weeks.

Adult Day Health Care

Adult Day Health Care

\$23,140

\$31,098

Based on 5 days per week by 52 weeks.

Assisted Living Facility

Private, One Bedroom

\$58,800

\$79,022

Based on 12 months of care, private, one bedroom.

Nursing Home Care

Semi-Private Room

\$124,100

\$166,780

Private Room

\$146,000

\$196,212

Based on 365 days of care.

The information shown above is based on a specific scenario generated by the [Genworth 2021 Cost of Care](#). Future years are calculated by assuming an annual 3% growth rate. For more information and location comparison, visit genworth.com/costofcare.