



**Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families
Office of the Secretary**

WES MOORE
GOVERNOR

ARUNA MILLER
LT. GOVERNOR

ED ROTHSTEIN
ACTING SECRETARY

**House Bill 619 - Interstate Podiatric Medical Licensure Compact
SUPPORT**

February 18, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Wells
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF) is committed to leading veterans and their families through life's transitions, making Maryland the best state for military-connected communities. Our department supports House Bill 619 -Interstate Podiatric Medical Licensure Compact.

House Bill 619 would add Maryland to the Podiatric Medical Licensure Compact, enabling licensed podiatrists to continue practicing their skills here in Maryland, allowing military spouses to seamlessly integrate into our Maryland communities and minimize disruptions to their professional lives between moves. According to the national non-profit Blue Star Families, military spouse unemployment stands at 21%, an unacceptable level that has been static for too many years. 600,000 military and veteran families move around the nation and the world every year, uprooting their lives in service of our country. Many move to Maryland with skills and talents that we should be harnessing.

Military families, like all families, increasingly need to be two-income households to thrive and achieve the American Dream. Thriving military families are essential to retaining veterans to continue living here in Maryland. HB 619 goes some way toward making that goal possible. There is no fiscal impact associated with this bill. Thank you for your time, and I respectfully ask the committee for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward C. Rothstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ed Rothstein
Acting Secretary