



Commissioned Officers Association of the United States Public Health Service

Protecting the interests of the USPHS Commissioned Corps since 1951

January 29, 2026

The Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins
The Honorable Jessica Feldmark
House Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Subject: **Request for FAVORABLE Report - HB 102 – Education - Dependent Children of Service Members - Advance Enrollment Procedures**

Dear Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

On behalf of the Commissioned Officers Association, I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **HB 102 – Education - Dependent Children of Service Members - Advance Enrollment Procedures**

This bill would require a county superintendent of schools to allow the dependent child of a service member to be enrolled in a county school upon the receipt of orders for a permanent change of station or reassignment through a remote enrollment process. For children who have a disability, the school system will initiate the transfer and reevaluation of the individualized education plan. The enrollment must be finalized within 10 days of receipt of the request for enrollment. This bill also allows the child to remain enrolled in the school until completion of the highest grade level available in the school. Finally, the bill requires that the Secretary of Veterans and Military Families publish and maintain information on school enrollment for children of active service members. This bill passed both the House and Senate Chambers unanimously last year, however, the Senate version was not returned in time for action, resulting in the bill not passing.

Military families move every two -three years. For my children, they once attended **seven schools** in **four years** during a move to Europe. For children, changing schools frequently can be traumatic if things don't go well, or amazingly simple if policies allow parents to do things remotely. And for a teen, having to leave during your senior year, seems like the end of the world. This bill goes a long way toward making things timely and efficient, especially for children with IEPs.

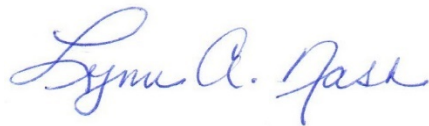
Request for FAVORABLE Report - HB 102 – Education - Dependent Children of Service Members - Advance Enrollment Procedures

The Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service as well as the Maryland Military Coalition, of which COA is a member, **strongly supports** HB 102 and asks the Committee for a **FAVORABLE report**.

The mission of the Commissioned Officers Association (COA) is to protect and enhance the public health and safety of the United States by supporting and advancing the interests of the Commissioned Corps and its officers through advocacy, education, training and dissemination of professional information. This includes the 1398 officers, 8 Ready Reservists and over 7,000 retirees living in Maryland.

We want to thank Delegate Patterson for her on-going commitment to our veterans and the uniformed services community in Maryland.

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
CAPTAIN (Retired), United States Public Health Service
Commissioned Officers Association Director
Maryland Military Coalition
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