



“Advocating for NPs since 1992”

March 18, 2021

Re: SB 952 – Health Occupations – Internship and Residency Training Requirements – Waiver for Former Service Members Injured in Combat - OPPOSED

On behalf of the Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland, Inc., (NPAM) the only professional association advocating solely for the over 7,100 certified Nurse Practitioners (NPs) licensed in Maryland, and the over 800 active members of NPAM, we respectfully request you **OPPOSE SB 952 - Health Occupations – Internship and Residency Training Requirements – Waiver for Former Service Members Injured in Combat.**

This bill requires health occupations boards to waive internship or residency training requirements for licensure, certification, or registration for a former service member who is disabled as a result of combat deployment.

While we support efforts to ease the licensure process for service members, we believe that the internship and residency programs for physicians is an essential component of licensure and cannot be waived and may jeopardize the health and wellbeing of Maryland’s citizens.

It is concerning that the bill does not define the term “disabled” and it is unclear how any health occupations board would verify whether an applicant had been “disabled as a result of injury from combat deployment”. Additionally, as written, SB 952 only waives internship and residency requirements. Many health occupations, such as nursing, have clinical training requirements that are not considered internships or residency programs. It is unclear whether SB 952 intends to waive all clinical training requirements for health occupations, or only the requirements for those occupations that specifically require an internship or residency period.

NPAM is hopeful you will **OPPOSE SB 952 Health Occupations – Internship and Residency Training Requirements – Waiver for Former Service Members Injured in Combat.** Feel free to contact Beverly Lang, Executive Director, NPAM if you require additional information.

Kindest Regards,
Beverly Lang MScN, RN, ANP-BC, FAANP
Executive Director,
Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland Inc.
443-367-0277 (Office)
Fax: 410-772-7915
NPAMexdir@npedu.com

The Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland, Inc.
5372 Iron Pen Place Columbia, MD 21044
Office: 443-367-0277 Fax: 410-772-7915
www.npamonline.org NPAM@npedu.com