



# MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

*Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy*

January 18, 2022

Chairwoman Shane Pendergrass  
Chairman, Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Maryland House of Delegates  
Room 241 House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis MD 21401-1912

Dear Chairwoman Pendergrass and Honorable Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee.

House Bill 112, before your committee on January 20, 2022 is a valuable measure to increase the number of available health occupation practitioners available with the State. This measure allows the health occupation boards to issue a full or temporary expedited license, certification or registration to a service member, veteran or military spouse if they meet the requirements. The health occupations board would issue the credential in an expedited fashion after receiving a completed application. The temporary license will be valid for six months.

The Coalition offers two recommendations:

- Change the term “armed forces” to 'uniformed services' in conformance with Maryland law. (See Maryland Code, General Provisions, Section 1-117). As you know there are now eight Uniformed Services, but only six armed forces —the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and the Space Force under the Defense Department; and the Coast Guard under the Dept. of Transportation. And, there are significant numbers of USPHS and NOAA Corps commissioned officers in our state who must be included according to Maryland law. In addition, please reconsider the bill’s restriction on “veterans” to those who have retired within the year of their application, especially in light of current shortages, since the objective is to improve the number of available practitioners in the state.
- In addition, please reconsider removing the bill’s restriction on “veterans” to those who have retired within the year of their application, especially in light of current professional shortages if you are attempting to improve the number of available practitioners in the state.

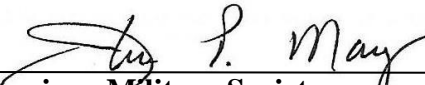
The Maryland Military Coalition, is a voluntary, non-partisan organization representing 18 veteran service organizations who, in turn, serve over 150,000 Maryland uniformed services men and women and their families. The Coalition strongly supports House Bill 112 and asks for your favorable report. Thank you to Delegate Crosby for sponsoring this important legislation.

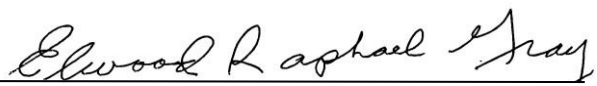
Yours, respectfully

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

## Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

  
Air Force Sergeants Association

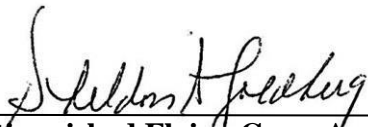
  
American Military Society


  
American Minority Veterans Research Project


  
Association of the United States Navy


  
Commissioned Officers Association of the  
US Public Health Service

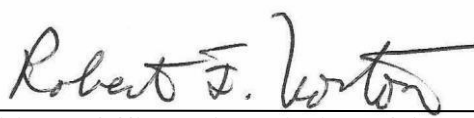
  
Disabled American Veterans


  
Distinguished Flying Cross Association

  
Fleet Reserve Association

  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

  
Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'  
Association

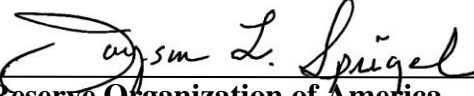
  
Military Officers Association of America

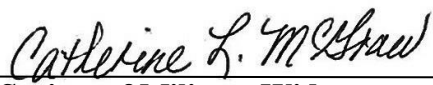
  
Military Order of the Purple Heart

  
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