



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

Oral Testimony In Support of HB 617 Lynn Nash, Communications Director

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary and distinguished members of the House Ways and Means Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in FAVOR of Delegate Lisanti's bill, HB **HB 617, Property Tax – Credit for Surviving Spouses of Fallen Service Members.**

My name is CAPTAIN Lynn Nash. I am a 30-year veteran who served in both the Army and the U.S. Public Health Service. I was the first response coordinator for the U.S. Public Health Service, and as a result, I am well aware of the challenges that family members face when their service member risks his or her life while on deployment. I am here today as the Communications Director, for the Maryland Military Coalition and the Director representing 1,200 active duty and retired USPHS officers living in Maryland. I am a resident of District 17.

The Maryland Military Coalition supports HB 617. However, we ask that you consider an amendment to make the bill more inclusive of all of the Uniformed Services who deploy. As written, this bill only addresses the active duty of the military, naval or air service of the United States—the six military services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Space Force and Coast Guard) and not all of the Uniformed Services. It excludes the active duty of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), who have been known to sail into man-made disasters, such as the waters contaminated with radiation during Fukushima to collect much needed data, as well as my service, the United States Public Health Service, who in the last two years has been continuously deployed to hospitals and clinics around the U.S. fighting COVID. Over 6,000 USPHS deployments have taken place (which is essentially all members of the service). Most PHS officers have been rotating 30 days deployed and 30 days at home, since the start of the pandemic. Several officers have been infected while serving in the front lines of the fight against disease. Therefore, I believe that **ALL** Uniformed Services should be included in this bill.

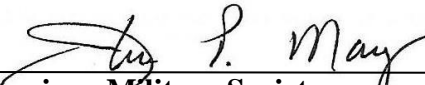
The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan organization representing 19 military-connected organizations with approximately 150,000 members including currently serving, National Guard and Reserves, veterans, retirees, their families, caretakers and survivors. We support and ask asks for a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 617 **with our recommended amendment**. We applaud Delegate Lisanti for her commitment to survivors of our fallen heroes.


Thank you.

LYNN A. NASH, CAPTAIN USPHS (Ret).
Communications Director

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition


Air Force Sergeants Association

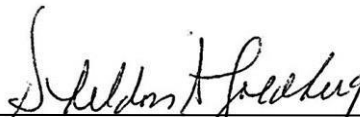

American Military Society



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


Society of Military Widows


Veterans of Foreign Wars