



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

Statement of Lynn A. Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN
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Communications Director

SB 280 - Child Care Providers - Registration and Licensing - Exemptions

February 22, 2023

FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Feldman and Honorable Members of the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee:

As the Maryland Military Coalition's Communication Director, I am requesting your **favorable report** on SB 280. For the record, my name is CAPTAIN Lynn Nash. I am a retired nurse, who completed over 30 years of active-duty service in both the Army and the U.S. Public Health Service. I am well acquainted with the issue. As a military parent, I used on base childcare when my children were young, and as a Community Health Nurse, it was my job to conduct training for staff as well as to do frequent unannounced inspections of both child care centers and privately operated family homes

In my written testimony I provide statistics on the cost of childcare. It's high. In Montgomery County where I live, families are paying 15.6% of their total income on childcare. The prices vary by age of the child and location where the child is being cared for.

- Infant care - \$7,461 – over \$15,000 **per child** in a center; \$5,824 to almost \$10,000 in a private home
- Pre-school - \$6,239 to over \$11,00 **per child** in a center; and \$5,441 to \$9,000 in a home
- Twenty-nine (29) percent of families have two or more kids under six.

Military families move on average every 2 to 3 years. In her introduction to the house version of this bill, Delegate Patterson gave the figure that 23% of relocating military families are unable to find childcare. This difficulty often means that the spouse, cannot work outside the home, limiting the income of the family further.

You will soon hear from Mr. Arnold from the Defense Service Liaison Office who will talk about the positive benefits of DoD care. I totally agree. I'm here to tell you that a Service-trained and

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certified provider has MORE training than the average MD-trained provider. I've produced a comparison document for you which can be found in my written testimony. The document examines and compares the two systems from both a policy standpoint as well as training. For example, in Maryland, a provider can start with only 24 hours of training in six core areas, where a DoD trained provider must have 90 clock hours of training. In Maryland, a provider can take a full year to complete the remainder of their training, an additional 18 hours—for a total of 42 hours. Maryland also requires only 12 hours of continuing education every year versus 24 in the DoD program.

I inspected both Center-based and family child care homes locally at four different duty stations as well as served on the European Command Inspection Team. In 1995 I was requested and joined the National Inspection team and traveled all over the East Coast primarily, inspecting DoD facilities and family child care homes. In the over 10 years, where I trained and inspected, not a single center or family home was found unsatisfactory.

I urge you to avoid the duplicative requirement of dual certification, and allow child care providers to continue to function under their Service's regulations, to return to work immediately after re-certification and inspection by the new base commander.

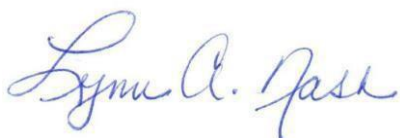
Available childcare is a recruitment and retention issue—Service members need to know that their kids are safe and well cared for as well as a quality-of-life issue.

The Maryland Military Coalition, is a **voluntary**, non-partisan **organization representing 19 veteran service organizations**, who, in turn, serve over 150,000 Maryland uniformed services men, women and their families. The Coalition ***strongly supports*** Senate Bill 280 – Child Care Provider Exemption and asks for your ***favorable report***.

Thank you to Senator Gile for sponsoring this important legislation. It drives whether **service members join the service and STAY in the service**. We appreciate her leadership in this critical area and look forward to continuing to work with her and Delegate Patterson for passage of their bills.

Thank you.

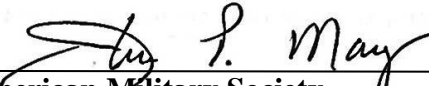
Respectfully,

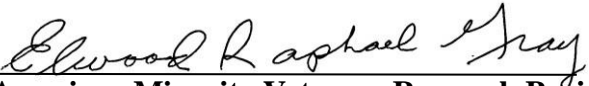


Lynn A. Nash

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

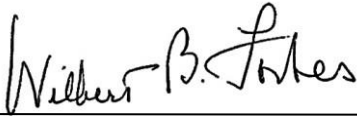

Air Force Sergeants Association


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


Montford Point Marines of America


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