



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 8, 2023

Chair Melanie Griffith
Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

SB 187 – Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants -
Request for Favorable Report

Dear Chair Griffith and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

As the Maryland Military Coalition's Communications Director, I am requesting your **favorable report** on SB 187.

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.

This bill prohibits a health occupations board from denying a license, certification, or registration to an immigrant if the individual meets the requirements. For those unaware, the requirements for licensure are extensive. The applicant must:

- [Meet the educational requirements](#)
- [Complete a foreign-educated nurses \(FEN\) course](#)
- [Take and pass an English language proficiency test, if mandated](#)
- [Pass the state's National Council Licensing Examination-Registered Nurse \(NCLEX – RN\)](#)
- [Obtain credential evaluation](#)
- [Find a nursing recruiting agency or US-based employer](#)
- [Apply and obtain an RN immigrant visa/green card](#)

These requirements are all encompassing to ensure that the applicant has the competencies needed to practice safely. As such, this legislation makes sense, especially in light of the current shortage of providers here in the state.


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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 187 – Health Occupations – Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Immigrants and asks for your ***favorable report***.

Thank you to Senator Kagan for sponsoring this important legislation.

Respectfully,

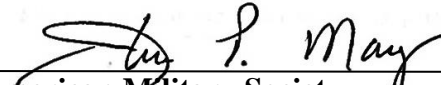
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn A. Nash". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

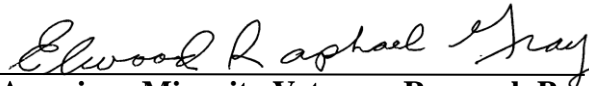
Lynn A. Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN
CAPT (R), U.S. Public Health Service
Communications Director

MMC Member Organizations Signature Page follows


Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition


Air Force Sergeants Association

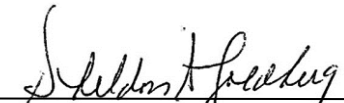

American Military Society



American Minority Veterans Research Project

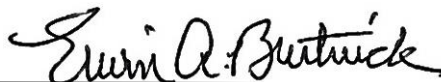

Association of the United States Navy



Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service


Disabled American Veterans

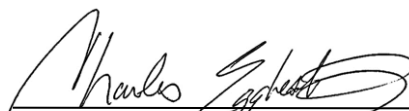

Distinguished Flying Cross Association



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