



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

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

SB 014 – Health Occupations – Clinical and Graduate Alcohol and Drug Counselors – Licensure
January 31, 2023

FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Griffith and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

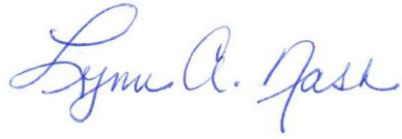
As the Communications Director, for the Maryland Military Coalition, I am testifying in support of SB 014. For the record, my name is Lynn Nash and I am a PhD-prepared nurse, who has had significant experience in healthcare credentialing—the process of reviewing and evaluating education and training.

SB 014 alters the Maryland qualifications to become licensed to practice as a clinical alcohol and drug counselor by modifying the educational pathway. The bill specifies that the qualifying degrees must be in a professional counselling field from an accredited educational institution that is approved by the State Board of Professional Counselors; and repeals a second pathway of a graduating from a regionally accredited deemed equivalent. Currently, any applicant who holds a master's or doctoral degree in health and human services counseling from a regionally accredited educational institution qualifies. The purpose of this change is not only for a duty to protect Marylanders from harm, but also to make the credentialing process more consistent with requirements for similar professions that the Board regulates.

While this is a simple, procedural change, it does stand to reason that this change offers protection in that the qualifications cannot be manipulated at the whim of the Board. Therefore, the Maryland Military Coalition, 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. We **support** Senate Bill 014 and asks for your **favorable report**.

The Coalition would like to offer our thanks to Senator Augustine for sponsoring this legislation.

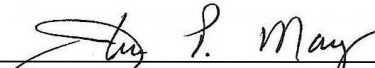
Respectfully,


A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn A. Nash". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and 'N'.

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

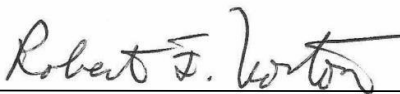

Disabled American Veterans



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