



# MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

*Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy*

February 28, 2023

Honorable Melony Griffith  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
Maryland Senate  
3 East  
Miller Senate Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SB 439 – Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact - **Request for Favorable Report**

Dear Chairwoman Griffith and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee

Maryland was the first state to join the National Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) in 1999. Nurses with a multistate license can practice in any of the twenty-five NLC participating states. Maryland also participates in the Interstate Medical License Compact and the Physical Therapy Compact.

Currently there exists additional compacts in Psychology, Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Counseling. There is work underway to establish an interstate compact for Social Workers.

Maryland is experiencing its worst shortage in healthcare providers ever. The [2022 State of Maryland's Health Care Workforce Report](#), released by the Maryland Hospital Association (MHA), found that there is a workforce crisis in Maryland's healthcare sector. The report detailed that **one in four hospital nursing positions are vacant**, and also cited high staff turnover and an insufficient nursing pipeline.

Similarly, the [Maryland Hospital Association](#) found that overall **Maryland is 16 percent below** the national average for number of physicians available for clinical practice. **The most severe problems occur in rural parts of the state** and will get much worse by 2015, based on the study's results. The biggest statewide gaps occur in **Primary Care, Emergency Medicine**, Anesthesiology, Hematology/Oncology, Thoracic Surgery and Vascular Surgery, Psychiatry, and Dermatology.

The situation in **Southern Maryland, Western Maryland, and the Eastern Shore** is the most troubling. All three regions fall significantly below national levels in active practicing physicians. Southern Maryland already has critical shortages in 25 of the 30 physician categories (83.3%), Western Maryland 20 of 30 (66.7%), and the Eastern Shore 18 of 30 (60.0%).

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An Advance Practice Registered Nurse can be a **Nurse Practitioner**, a **Certified Nurse Midwife**, a **Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist** or a **Clinical Nurse Specialist**, which includes a sub-category of Nurse Psychotherapist. These are all critical skills and critical shortages here in Maryland. These specialties are all independent practitioners, capable of extending care to all regions of our state, especially those where there have been consistent healthcare shortages.

The APRN Compact, adopted August 12, 2020, allows an advanced practice registered nurse to hold one multistate license with a privilege to practice in other compact states. The APRN Compact will be implemented *when 7 states have enacted the legislation*. Already, Delaware, Utah and North Dakota have already adopted this legislation, we join 5 other states who are considering this legislation-New York, Arizona, Hawaii, Kentucky and Montana.

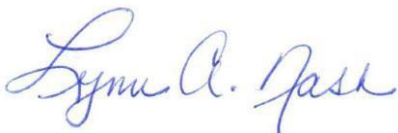
Maryland is home to approximately 390,000 veterans, 30,000 active-duty service members and 18,000 reservists/national guard members. In addition, there are 130,000 veteran households with children and another 60,000 reserve/national guard/active-duty dependents. They deserve improved access to care. Passing this bill would accomplish that.

It's time that Maryland takes the lead again and passes SB 439, the Advance Practice Nurse Compact, **now!**

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 and women and their families. The Coalition **strongly supports** Senate Bill and asks for your **favorable report**.

Thank you to Senator Hayes for sponsoring this important legislation.

Respectfully,

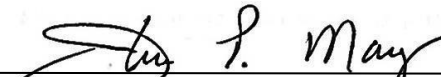
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn A. Nash".


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

Maryland Military Coalition Member Organizations Follow

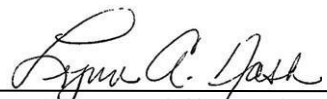
## Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

  
Air Force Sergeants Association

  
American Military Society

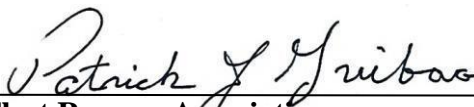
  
American Minority Veterans Research Project

  
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