



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

January 30, 2023

Chairwoman Melanie Griffith
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

SUBJECT: Request for Favorable Report – SB0014, Health Occupations – Clinical and Graduate Alcohol and Drug Counselors – Licensure

Dear Chair Griffith and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

As the Communications Director, for the Maryland Military Coalition, I am writing 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.

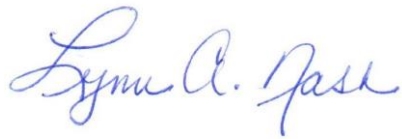
Currently, any applicant who holds a master's or doctoral degree in health and human services counseling from a regionally accredited educational institution qualifies. The purpose of this change is not only for a duty to protect Marylanders from harm, but also to make the credentialing process more 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,

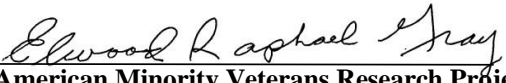
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn A. Nash". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynn A. Nash

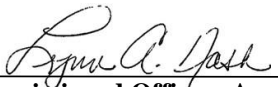
Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition


Air Force Sergeants Association

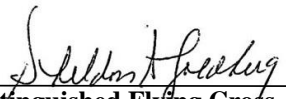

American Military Society



American Minority Veterans Research Project

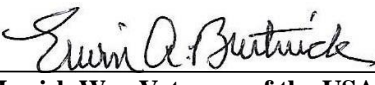

Association of the United States Navy



Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service

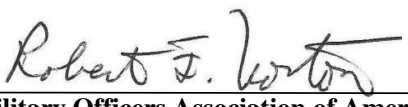

Disabled American Veterans


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

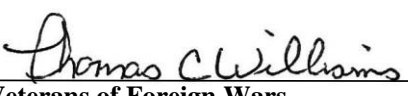

National Association for Black Veterans


Naval Enlisted Reserve Association


NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers


Reserve Organization of America


Society of Military Widows


Veterans of Foreign Wars