



# 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 439 - Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact  
February 28, 2023

## **FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Griffith and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

For the record, my name is CAPTAIN Lynn Nash. I am the Communications Director for the Maryland Military Coalition. 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.

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](#) [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**, such as Southern Maryland, Western and the Eastern Shore, and is predicted to get much worse by 2015, based on the study's results.

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SB 439 - Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact - **Request for Favorable Report**  
February 28, 2023

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**.

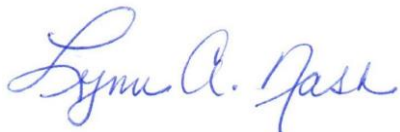
Maryland is home to approximately 390,000 veterans, 30,000 active-duty service members and 18,000 reservists/national guard members. In addition, there are 130,000 veteran households with children and another 60,000 reserve/national guard/active-duty dependents. They deserve improved access to care. 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 439** and asks for your **favorable report**.

Thank you to Delegate Rosenberg for sponsoring this important legislation.

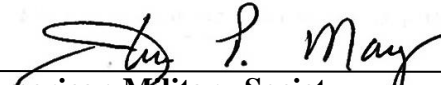
Respectfully,

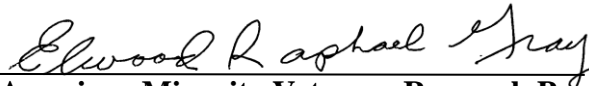
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn A. Nash". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lynn A. Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN


**Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition**

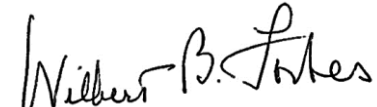
  
Air Force Sergeants Association

  
American Military Society


  
American Minority Veterans Research Project

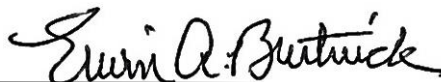
  
Association of the United States Navy


  
Commissioned Officers Association of the  
US Public Health Service

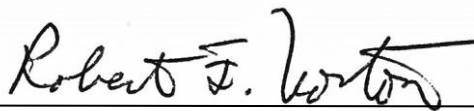
  
Disabled American Veterans

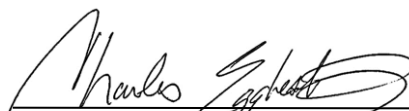
  
Distinguished Flying Cross Association


  
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