



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 0078 – Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary
Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting
January 31, 2023

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT

Dear Chair Griffith and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

As the Communications Director, for the Maryland Military Coalition, and as the Director representing the 1200 U.S. Public Health Officers who live in Maryland, I stand before you for the third time to request your favorable report for SB 78 - Temporary Licensure for Health Occupations. For the record, my name is Lynn Nash. I am a 30-year, retired service member and nurse who believes that SB0078 is a common-sense approach to protect the public, while at the same time relieving critical shortages across the spectrum of healthcare occupations. Those shortages are highest in nursing and behavioral health.

- A recent [Chamber of Commerce study](#) on military spouses found that **67% of military spouses had to quit a job because their spouse received change-in-duty-station orders.**
- The [Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University](#) found that **50 percent of military spouses work in a field that requires occupational licensing.**
- Applying for a new license every time that you relocate, is a **burdensome, expensive process.**
- In the health occupations, there are 50 states, the District of Columbia and 4 territories with **55 state-specific Practice acts** and **55 DIFFERENT licensing processes.**
- [Navigating the requirements, rules, regulations and fees is a significant challenge](#), especially as all are ALREADY LICENSED and in GOOD STANDING in another state.
- According to the [Goldwater Institute](#), licensure **portability hits military families who relocate every two to three years the hardest**, a fact that negatively influences reenlistment decisions and the military's ability to retain and recruit.
- The Department of Defense sees licensure as a [readiness issue](#), which is why it has been pursuing license portability for **over 15 years.**

SB 78 mitigates these problems by allowing for a temporary, expedited licensure process, something that is a **grave need in Maryland**, where [our own Board of nursing's website](#) states that they “**continue to experience delays in processing initial and renewal applications for**

licensure due to information technology limitations, numerous vacant full-time positions, and decreased operational resources”.

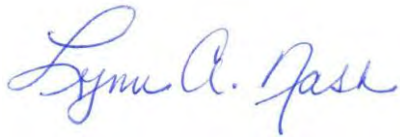
However, I do ask for **two amendments**:

- First, **remove the one-year application restriction for Veterans**, especially if you want to improve the number of available practitioners.
- And second, **that you require the establishment of same day, walk-through, temporary licensing**, like five other states.

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 0078 and asks for your ***favorable report with amendments***.

Thank you to Senator Jackson for sponsoring this important legislation and for amending the language in this year’s bill to the more inclusive term of “uniformed service”. Temporary licensure **is one of our top 4 issues**. We appreciate his leadership in this critical area and look forward to working with he and Delegate Crosby on this issue.

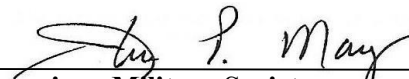
Respectfully,

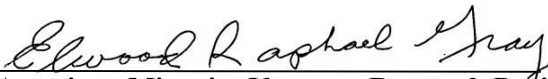


Lynn A. Nash

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition


Air Force Sergeants Association

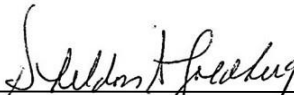

American Military Society


American Minority Veterans Research Project



Association of the United States Navy



Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service

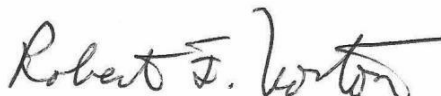

Disabled American Veterans


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

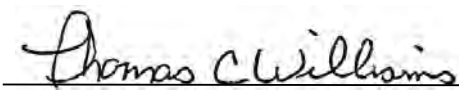

National Association for Black Veterans


Naval Enlisted Reserve Association


NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers


Reserve Organization of America


Society of Military Widows


Veterans of Foreign Wars