



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

HB 292 - Child Care Providers - Registration and Licensing - Exemptions
- **Request for Favorable Report**

February 8, 2023

FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

HB 15 raises the current subtraction for retirees who are over the age of 55 from \$15K to \$20K. In addition, it provides for an income tax subtraction for public safety officials.

As the Maryland Military Coalition's Communication Director, I am requesting your **favorable report** on HB 292. For the record, my name is CAPTAIN Lynn Nash. 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. As a military parent, I used on base childcare when my children were young, and as a Community Health Nurse, it was my job to conduct training for staff as well as to do frequent unannounced inspections of both child care centers and privately operated family homes

In my written testimony I provide statistics on the cost of childcare. It's high. In Montgomery County where I live, families are paying 15.6% of their total income on childcare. The prices vary by age of the child and location where the child is being cared for.

- Infant care - \$7, 461 – over \$15,000 **per child** in a center; \$5,824 to almost \$10,000 in a private home
- Pre-school - \$6,239 to over \$11,00 **per child** in a center; and \$5,441 to \$9,000 in a home
- Twenty-nine (29) percent of families have two or more kids under six.

You've heard that childcare is unavailable from Delegate Patterson. Mr. Arnold talked about the positive benefits. I'm here to tell you that a Service-trained and certified provider has MORE training than the average MD-trained provider. In over 10 years, where I trained and inspected, not a single center or family home was found unsatisfactory.

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I urge you to avoid the duplicative requirement of dual certification, and allow child care providers to continue to function under their Service's regulations, to return to work immediately after re-certification and inspection by the new base commander.

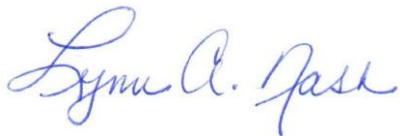
This is a recruitment and retention issue—Service members need to know that their kids are safe and well cared for as well as a quality of life issue.

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** House Bill 292 – Child care provider exemption and asks for your **favorable report**.

Thank you to Delegate Patterson for sponsoring this important legislation. It drives whether **service members join and stay**. We appreciate her leadership in this critical area and look forward to continuing to work with her and Senator Gile on this issue

Thank you.

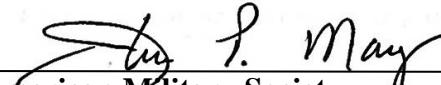
Respectfully,

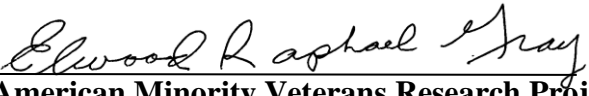


Lynn A. Nash

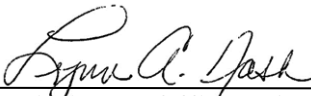
Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition


Air Force Sergeants Association

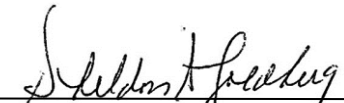

American Military Society



American Minority Veterans Research Project

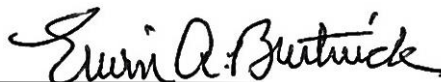

Association of the United States Navy



Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service

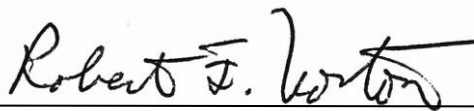

Disabled American Veterans

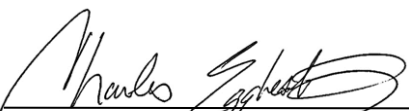

Distinguished Flying Cross Association



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