



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

January 31, 2024

Honorable C.T. Wilson
Chair, Economic Matters
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

HB 383 – Cosmetology Compact - Request for Favorable Report

Dear Chairman Wilson and Members of the Economic Matters Committee

On behalf of the Maryland Military Coalition, and as its Communications Director, I am writing in support of HB 383. The Cosmetology compact that you are considering is sponsored by the Council of State Governments, the **Department of Defense** and the Future of the Beauty Industry Coalition. The compact allows cosmetologists to practice in any state that accepts the compact. The compact has already been enacted in three states (Kentucky, Alabama and Arizona), and is currently being considered in eight other states in addition to Maryland. Approving this compact will provide an additional licensing pathway by creating license reciprocity among the participating states, reducing barriers to portability and employment.

Currently there are nine additional compacts in Medicine, Registered Nurses, Physical Therapist, Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Psychology, and Counseling. There is work underway to establish an interstate compact for Advance Practice Nurses and Social Workers, both of which have had legislation sponsored here in Maryland this year.

Maryland is home to 34,444 active-duty service members, 14,292 active-duty spouses and 25,642 reservists/national guard members with 28,019 family members¹. In addition, there are 355,787 veteran households².

Military spouses have long faced employment challenges, with an unwavering unemployment rate of 22%³ compared to our local rate of 1.8%. Most spouses need to work. Sixty-seven percent (67%) of active-duty spouses had to leave their last job because of a permanent change of station move⁴. On

¹ [Military One Source](#), as of December 31, 2022

² [VA Claim Insider](#), August 10, 2023

³ 2021 [DoD Survey of Active-Duty Spouses](#)

⁴ U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation – [The Hidden Financial Costs of Military Spouse Unemployment](#)

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average, they earn 26.8% less in income than their non-military counterparts because of the frequent moves. The average time to find a job for a military spouse is 19 weeks, **OR** \$12,374 per year in lost wages trying to relicense and/or find work in the new state⁵.

The average military family moves every two to three years⁶ and for cosmetologist it means getting another license before they can work. Here in Maryland, our high cost of living means that for most families, especially for our uniformed service families, having two incomes *is critical*. Time lost seeking a new job and a new occupational license creates economic challenges for our military families, not only in the near term, but the cumulative effect is that they often cannot plan for, save for, and be ready for retirement. Often the difficulty for spouses staying employed is one of the main reasons that service members decide **NOT** to re-enlist.

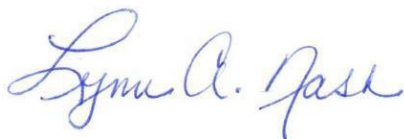
The purpose of this compact is to facilitate the interstate practice and regulation of cosmetology with the goal of improving public access to, and the safety of, cosmetology services and reducing unnecessary burdens related to cosmetology licensure. Through the compact, member states seek to establish a regulatory framework that provides for a new multistate licensing program that provides value and mobility to licensed cosmetologists in those states. It lowers expenses and gets the applicant back to work quicker – a real benefit to our service families.

The Defense-State Liaison Office has been pursuing license portability for over 16 years. Military Spouse employment and Economic Opportunities are tracked and lists a total of 16 compacts by state. The DSLO tracker for Maryland⁷ shows that Maryland has yet to enact Cosmetology Licensure Compact legislation. To date, Maryland has enacted compact legislation for nurses, licensed profession counselors, occupational therapists and physical therapists

The Maryland Military Coalition, is a voluntary, non-partisan organization representing 21 veteran service organizations who, in turn, serve over 150,000 Maryland uniformed services men and women and their families. The Coalition **strongly supports** House Bill 383 – **Cosmetology Compact** and asks for your **favorable report**.

Thank you to Delegates Smith and Shetty for sponsoring this important legislation.

Respectfully,



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

Maryland Military Coalition Member Organizations Follow

⁵ [National Military Family Association Data](#)

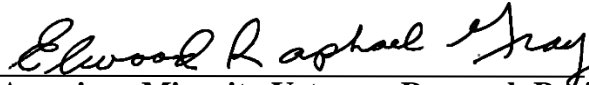
⁶ [Goldwater Institute, Breaking Down Barriers to Work](#)

⁷ [Military State Policy - Maryland](#)


Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition


Air Force Sergeants Association


American Military Society


American Minority Veterans Research Project

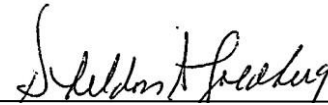

Association of the United States Navy



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


Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce


Military Officers Association of America


Military Order of the Purple Heart

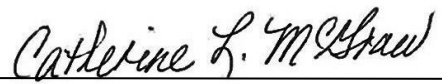

Montford Point Marines of America



National Association for Black Veterans


Naval Enlisted Reserve Association


NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers


Reserve Organization of America


Society of Military Widows


National Active and Retired Federal Employees
Veterans Affairs Directorate, NARFE MD


Veterans of Foreign Wars