



Board of Nursing

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

February 11, 2025

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 240
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 466 – Health Equality for Service Members Act

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the Board) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for HB 466 Health Equality for Service Members Act.

This bill establishes rules of interpretation related to the uniformed services; alters the rule of interpretation for "veteran"; and alters the application of certain provisions of law governing public health, the regulation of health occupations, and housing vouchers and assistance to apply to all uniformed services, rather than only the armed forces.

The Board supports the bill's intentions in supporting veterans, and offers amendments to align the statutory changes made to the Health Occupations chapter as it refers to professions under the Boards jurisdiction. Specifically, the bill alters language in the electrology section, and the amendments we are putting forward would make identical the relevant sections referring to Registered Nurses, Nursing Assistants and Dialysis Technicians, Medication Technicians, Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives, and Licensed Certified Midwives.

Amendment to House Bill 466

On page 18 line 14 add

8-316 (a)(3)

Is disciplined by a licensing[, military,] or disciplinary authority [in this] **OF ANY** State [or in any other state] or country, [or] convicted or disciplined by a court [in this] **OF ANY** State [or in any other state] or country, **OR DISCIPLINED BY AND BRANCH OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OF THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION** for an act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under the Board's disciplinary statutes;

8-6A-10(a)(3)

Is disciplined by a licensing[, military,] or disciplinary authority [in this] **OF ANY** State [or in any other state] or country, [or] convicted or disciplined by a court [in this] **OF ANY**

State [or in any other state] or country, **OR DISCIPLINED BY AND BRANCH OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OF THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION** for an act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under the Board's disciplinary statutes;

8-6c-20(a)(3)

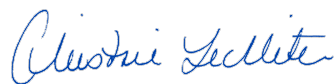
Is disciplined by a licensing[, military,] or disciplinary authority [in this State or in any other state or country], **OF ANY STATE OR COUNTRY**, convicted or disciplined by a court [in this State or in any other state or country] **OF ANY STATE OR COUNTRY**, or disciplined by [a branch of the United States] **ANY BRANCH OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION** for an act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under the Board's disciplinary statutes;

8-6d-10(a)(3)

Is disciplined by a licensing[, military,] or disciplinary authority [in this State or in any other state or country], **OF ANY STATE OR COUNTRY**, convicted or disciplined by a court [in this State or in any other state or country] **OF ANY STATE OR COUNTRY**, or disciplined by [a branch of the United States] **ANY BRANCH OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION** for an act that would be grounds for disciplinary action under the Board's disciplinary statutes;

Thank you again for your time. For more information, please contact Ms. Mitzi Fishman, Director of Legislative Affairs, at 410-585-2049 or mitzi.fishman@maryland.gov, or Ms. Rhonda Scott, Executive Director, at 410-585-1953 or rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,



Christine Lechliter
Board President

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.