



# Commissioned Officers Association of the United States Public Health Service

*Protecting the interests of the USPHS Commissioned Corps since 1951*

February 18, 2025

The Honorable Josephine A. Pena-Melnyk  
The Honorable Bonnie Cullison  
House Health and Government Operations Committee  
240 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Subject: **Request for UNFAVORABLE Report – HB 45 – Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact**

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison and Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee:

On behalf of the Commissioned Officers Association, I write to recommend a **UNFAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **HB 45 – Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact**

As you know, I am a long-time proponent of expedited licensure and compacts, however, in good faith, I **cannot support HB 045** which includes just Armed Forces and does not contain a spousal exemption.

As a longtime proponent of expedited licensure, I have examined HB 045. It does not provide expedited licensure and certification for **ALL uniformed services**. Because this bill requires passage of model language **without any changes**, I cannot support the bill. I have been in contact with the Council for State Governments, who said that the Department of Defense, Defense State Liaison felt that “uniformed services” language was too broad and required change to “armed forces”. However, in a subsequent call to Christopher Arnold, Maryland’s DSLO, Chris said he had no idea why the language was changed, and suggested that we speak with Tammy Perreault, the DSLO action officer about the language. That call is set for February 24<sup>th</sup>, after your committee hears this bill.

As you well know, Maryland is home to the headquarters of both the U.S. Public Health Service AND the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Commissioned Corps. In addition to my headquarters, U.S. Public Health Service officers serve in the Department of Health and Human Services operating administrations including the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, the Health Resources and Services Administration, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, as well as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, among others. **A large component of my Corps includes Dentists**. In addition, we also have a **few dental hygienists**. Certainly, many spouses, likely would **benefit from either expedited licensure or passage of appropriate compact legislation**. HB 45 does not meet the needs of those in my service.

The Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service **cannot support HB 045 and recommends an UNFAVORABLE report.**

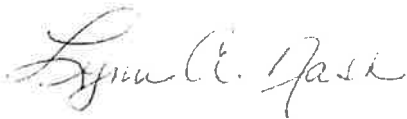
P.O. Box 189, Cheltenham, MD 20623

**Request for UNFAVORABLE Report – HB 45 – Interstate Dental and Dental Hygiene Licensure Compact**

The mission of the Commissioned Officers Association (COA) is to **protect and enhance the public health and safety of the United States** by supporting and advancing the interests of the Commissioned Corps and its officers through advocacy, education, training and dissemination of professional information. This includes the **1398 officers, 8 Ready Reservists and over 7,000 retirees living in Maryland.**

We wish to thank Delegate Hill for her consideration of service members and their families.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn A. Nash".

Lynn A. Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN  
CAPTAIN (Retired), United States Public Health Service  
Commissioned Officers Association Director  
Maryland Military Coalition  
[Lynn.Slepski@outlook.com](mailto:Lynn.Slepski@outlook.com)