



# Commissioned Officers Association of the United States Public Health Service

Protecting the interests of the USPHS Commissioned Corps since 1951

February 12, 2025

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbary  
The Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins  
House Ways and Means Committee  
130 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Subject: **Request for FAVORABLE Report - HB 596 – Education - Dependent Children of Service Members - Advance Enrollment Procedures**

Dear Chair Atterbary, Vice Chair Wilkins and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

On behalf of the Commissioned Officers Association, I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **HB 587 – Education - Dependent Children of Service Members - Advance Enrollment Procedures**

This bill would require a county superintendent of schools to allow the dependent child of a service member to be enrolled in a county school upon the receipt of orders for a permanent change of station or reassignment through a remote enrollment process. For children who have a disability, the school system will initiate the transfer and reevaluation of the individualized education plan. The enrollment must be finalized within 10 days of receipt of the request for enrollment. This bill also allows the child to remain enrolled in the school until completion of the highest grade level available in the school.

Military families move every two -three years. For children, changing schools frequently can be traumatic if things don't go well, or amazingly simple if policies allow parents to do things remotely. This bill goes a long way toward making things timely and efficient, especially for children with IEPs.

The Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service as well as the Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports** HB 594 and asks the Committee for a **FAVORABLE report**.

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

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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 want to thank Delegate Patterson for her commitment to our veterans and the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn A. Nash". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Commissioned Officers Association Director  
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