

Lindsay Livingston Testimony

Favorable Testimony-HB420

Good afternoon, Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee.

My name is Lindsay Livingston. I serve as the Director of Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy for the Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families. I am also a seasoned military spouse. My husband has served on active duty in the United States Navy for over 23 years.

I began my career as a classroom teacher. Teaching was not just a job for me — it was my calling.

With each military move, I faced months-long delays transferring my professional license. Those periods were incredibly difficult. I remember feeling frustrated, discouraged, and honestly questioning my place in the workforce. I had done everything right. I was trained, qualified, and experienced. And yet, each relocation meant I had to sit on the sidelines.

At times, it felt as though I was being penalized for supporting my husband's service. The commitment our family was making to serve our country was creating barriers to my own professional growth.

This was over twenty years ago, before occupational licensing barriers for military spouses were widely recognized. Many spouses, like myself, simply left their professions altogether because it became too hard to restart every time.

House Bill 420 changes that story.

By allowing active service members and their spouses to practice in Maryland under a valid out-of-state license - when relocating due to orders and in good standing - this bill removes unnecessary delays while maintaining professional standards and accountability.

It protects readiness. It strengthens family economic stability. And it sends a clear message that Maryland understands military families serve too.

No qualified professional should feel that supporting their spouse's service comes at the cost of their own career.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB420.