



Representative Jim Butler

41<sup>st</sup> House District

Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security

House Bill 716 Sponsor Testimony

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Kick, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 716.

This legislation addresses the hardships many military spouses face with occupational and professional licensing requirements. Out of an estimated 3,600 military spouses in Ohio, 35% of them work in a profession that requires a license or certificate, such as; real estate agents, nurses, teachers, and cosmetologists who have a difficult time finding a job when moving to a new state with different licensure requirements.

Under this bill, that hardship will be alleviated by requiring any state or local agency to issue temporary licenses and certificates to members of the military and their spouses who are licensed in another state and have moved to Ohio for active duty assignments.

The bill is simple. In order to receive a temporary license or certificate to practice your profession in Ohio the four qualifications must be met:

1. You must hold a valid license or certificate to practice the trade or profession issued by another state.

2. Your license or certificate must be current and in good standing.
3. You must present proof that you or your spouse is a member of the uniformed services and is on active duty in Ohio.
4. Lastly, you must present proof that you moved to this state from the previous state in which you hold your license or certificate.

This legislation will create a straightforward process for members of the military and spouses to receive licensing reciprocity. We owe it to our active servicemen, servicewomen, and spouses, who already give up so much to serve our country, to provide a quick and easy path to practice their professions in Ohio.

Ohio would be well-served to quickly respond to this problem, for both our competitiveness in attracting military missions and, most importantly, for taking care of our servicemembers and their families.

I want to thank Secretary of the Air Force, Heather Wilson, who brought the urgency of this issue to my attention, Congressman Mike Turner for gathering support from other Ohio congressional members, Representative Perales for sponsoring this legislation with me as well as Senator Lehner, Beagle and Hackett for their work with this bill in the Senate.

Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Kick, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the committee, thank you again for the opportunity to testify on behalf of House Bill 716. I will be glad to answer any questions after Rep. Perales gives his testimony.