

Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security
House Bill 716 – Reciprocity
Proponent Testimony
27 November 2018

Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Kick, Ranking Member Craig and members of the Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security Committee, thank you for the opportunity today to testify in favor of House Bill 716, a bill that would mandate temporary licenses for professional occupations for Active Duty military members and spouses.

My name is Mike Zettler, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to testify before your Committee. I was born in Hamilton, Ohio, grew up in Fairfield, Ohio and proudly graduated from the University of Cincinnati and was commissioned into the United States Air Force. I currently live in Springboro, OH. I served in the Air Force for 34 years. During those years, I was a leader of aircraft maintenance organizations, a logistician and an officer with programmatic and budget responsibilities. I commanded at the squadron, wing and center levels. My final assignment was as a Lieutenant General reporting directly to the Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force with responsibilities for all resourcing, policy and procedural matters over maintenance, supply, transportation, integrated logistics, civil engineering, operational communications, food services, billeting, fitness and morale, welfare and recreation activities.

During my active service, particularly as a leader of dedicated men and women and certainly in my final assignment as a key staff member, I was always aware of the difficulties imposed upon families by military mandated moves. It often seemed like a great person, arrived, settled into the work environment, became very proficient and by then it was about time for them to move to another assignment. A continuous theme as I commanded or traveled to installations when “moves” became a topic were of the financial hardships associated with the moves, school disparity from one state to another and spousal employment. While the services have always

tried to take care of the members and their families, there are elements of a permanent change of station that are beyond the services members control. This is where House Bill 716 can make a substantial difference for military members who move from state to state. This Bill would require state occupational licensing agencies, under certain circumstances, to issue temporary licenses or certificates to members of the military and spouses who are licensed in another jurisdiction and have moved to Ohio for active duty.

House Bill 716, if enacted, will certainly and creditably allow the military member or the spouse to quickly become a contributing member of the community by carrying over the licenses or certifications where they had their credentials fully vetted and obtained in another state. As they quickly become a member of the community, they also begin to earn fair and equitable compensation which will help minimize the financial challenges associated with the move. House Bill 716 still allows the State of Ohio to determine the longer term eligibility for a permanent license or certificate. My own professional and personal experiences allow me to conclude that House Bill 716 has the potential to make a profound difference in the lives of military members who we embrace in their relocation to the Great State of Ohio as well as contribute significantly to meeting the professional needs of the State.

Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Kick, Ranking Member Craig and members of the Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to testify today and share my experiences with you. I am ready to answer any questions you may have.