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Senate Bill 7 Testimony House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee

Chairman Perales, Vice Chair Hood, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 7.

S.B. 7, formerly S.B. 320 from the 132nd General Assembly, will create a straightforward process for members of the military and spouses to receive licensing reciprocity. My joint sponsor Senator Lehner and I are legislators from the Dayton area so we see firsthand the impact that Wright-Patterson Air Force base has on our constituents and our economy. Our servicemen, servicewomen, and their spouses are vital to not only the Dayton region but on statewide and national scales as well.

Specifically, this bill will require state occupational licensing agencies to issue temporary licenses to military members and their spouses already licensed elsewhere and have moved to Ohio on active duty. The bill would require members and spouses to hold a valid license and be in good standing. They must also show proof that they or their spouses are members of the military and on active duty in Ohio. A person being issued the temporary license can only practice their profession within the scope of practice in Ohio but if they possess a medical license, only to the extent that they have been trained in a procedure.

Furthermore, this legislation would require state licensing agencies to verify the standing of the licenses issued by the other states for each person that was issued a

temporary license. Under this legislation, temporary licenses could be refused revoked for several reasons, including: if the individuals are not in good standing, have a criminal record, have had adverse action taken against them by a health care institution, or are no longer eligible for the temporary license. The director of Administrative Services must prepare a report on the number and type of temporary licenses or certificates that were issued during the fiscal year and provide them to the director of the Department of Veterans Services. Furthermore, temporary licenses must be free of charge.

I would like to note that the only change S.B. 7 makes from the as passed by the Senate version of S.B. 320 is that the temporary license would last for three years instead of one. Senate Bill 320 passed the Senate unanimously in December.

Our military families have given and sacrificed much in service to our country. By eliminating this regulatory barrier, we will be able to take a little less worry off of them as they transition to Ohio for active duty. I would appreciate your support for this legislation and I would be happy to take any questions.

Amendment:

The amendment defines the term “active guard and reserve”. In line 300, “Active guard and reserve” holds the meaning as defined in 10 U.S.C. 101. Additionally, the use of “Military duty” includes service in the uniformed services on active duty, in the active guard and reserve, and as a military technician dual status under 10 U.S.C. 10216.