



OHIO COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS
Affiliated with the Military Officers Association of America

Chairman Perales, Vice Chair Hood, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the House Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee. On behalf of the Ohio Council of Chapters of the Military Officers Association of America, I appreciate the opportunity to testify in favor of Senate Bill 7, regarding temporary state occupational licenses for members of the Uniformed Services and their spouses who are licensed in another jurisdiction and have moved to Ohio for military duty.

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and to preserving the earned entitlements of members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. MOAA is the largest military officers association and the fourth largest veteran association in America. Membership in our chapters is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and their surviving spouses.

Uniformed Service Members and their families sacrifice much to serve our country. One significant sacrifice is often forgotten is moving to new duty stations across state lines which can negatively impact servicemembers' families emotionally and financially. Senate Bill 7 will help ameliorate that negative impact by ensuring that members of the Uniformed Services and their families can continue to do the work for which they are trained once they arrive in Ohio. Furthermore, most states have already established laws that support licensure requirements for transitioning servicemembers and active duty military spouses. The Ohio Legislature can assist by passing Senate Bill 7. Lastly, this bill is one of several pending bills that, taken as a whole, will attract active duty families and veterans to move here and benefit the state of Ohio. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Ohio is home to more than 864,000 veterans who contribute significantly to our State's economy.

Furthermore, this is a readiness and retention issue for military families. When families can move together their stress and worries are minimized and the expense of the move is reduced as only one household is required. Both can focus on their careers and family without the concerns of being geographically separated. Military spouses too often face challenges in maintaining a career due to permanent change of duty station moves every few years. Studies have shown that one in three military spouses in the labor force require licenses or certification for their chosen career field. This legislation will help military spouses continue their careers and reduce the financial burdens on military families.

The members of the Ohio Chapters of the Military Officers Association of America are greatly supportive of Senate Bill 7 and encourage your committee to vote in favor of this proposed legislation.

LCDR Bryan Beamer, USPHS
Legislative Director
Military Officers Association of America - Ohio Council of Chapters
1305 Duncan Avenue. Cincinnati, OH 45208