



**COMMISSIONED OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION**
of the United States Public Health Service



TESTIMONY OF LCDR Matthew Dahm, President of the Cincinnati Commissioned Officers Association of the United States Public Health Service

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

RE: Senate Bill 7

Thank you for providing me this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 7.

I represent active duty and retired Uniformed Services officers who are members of the Cincinnati Commissioned Officers Association of the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) and support S.B. No. 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. Not only would this bill benefit active duty service members but would also make the State of Ohio a destination of choice for those of us serving our Nation.

Active duty members of the Uniformed Services give up a lot to serve our Country. Servicemembers in the licensed professions (e.g., physicians, nurses, engineers, pharmacists, etc.) often forego large incomes to serve in the Uniformed Services. The USPHS Commissioned Corps consists of approximately 6,700 officers ranging in rank from ensign to vice admiral and includes physicians, nurses, engineers, dentists, veterinarians, allied health professionals, environmental health specialists, scientists, and administrators. Corps officers primarily staff the agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services. In addition, USPHS Corps officers provide health services for the Coast Guard, the Bureau of Prisons, and the Department of Homeland Security as well as serve at other federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Park Service. In Ohio, USPHS Corps officers work at the CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, EPA, and



**COMMISSIONED OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION**
of the United States Public Health Service



FDA in Cincinnati, the Federal Correctional Institute in Elkton, Wright Patterson Medical Center in Fairborn, and 9th District Coast Guard Headquarters in Cleveland.

One sacrifice that is a consequence of this service that is often forgotten is that moving to new duty stations across state lines can negatively impact servicemembers' families emotionally and financially. This bill will help ameliorate that negative impact by ensuring that members of the Uniformed Services and their families can continue in an expeditious manner to do the work for which they are trained once they arrive in Ohio. Furthermore, most states have 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.

In short, the Cincinnati Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS is strongly in favor of S.B. No. 7 as a benefit to those who serve our Nation, their families, and the State of Ohio.

Very Respectfully,

LCDR Matthew Dahm, PhD, MPH, REHS

3840 Country Club Pl

Cincinnati, OH 45208