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Higher Education



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**State Representative Rick Perales**

Ohio's 73<sup>rd</sup> House District: Western Portion of Greene County

**House State and Local Government Committee**

**House Bill 133 – Military License Reciprocity**

**Sponsor Testimony**

**03 APRIL 2019**

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair Ginter, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 133 with my joint sponsor Representative Casey Weinstein. House Bill 133 will mandate temporary licenses for professional occupations for Active Duty military members and their spouses for a timeframe of up to six years.

For those of you on this committee who have had the honor of wearing our nation's uniform, you know first hand how military service affects families. I cannot calculate the number of times my own service has impacted my family; sometimes positively, but many times negatively. It has been widely reported that spousal unemployment is among the largest hardships faced by service member's spouses. The problem is so wide spread that the Office of Military Community and Family Policy under the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense has named professional license reciprocity as one of their top priorities to address in the coming years. The time for Ohio to act is now.

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. Those professionals 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.

This bill is truly a no brainer. In order to receive a temporary license or certificate to practice your profession in Ohio, four requirements 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. You must present proof that you moved to this state from a previous state in which you hold your license or certificate.

More and more, Department of Defense mission locating decisions are being influenced by state laws benefiting military members and families. With HB 133, Ohio has an opportunity to stand out as a military friendly state and have a leg up

over states without reciprocity. As the DoD makes these difficult basing decisions, we as a legislature should ensure that Ohio leads in every category for potential mission and base expansion opportunities.

Our warfighters and their families will benefit immeasurably from this legislation. My thanks to Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson for bringing this legislation to my attention and my joint sponsor, Representative Casey Weinstein for joining with me on this endeavor. Thank you to Representatives Jim Butler, Derrek Merrin, and now Senator Teresa Gavarone for championing similar legislation on this critical issue. Additional thanks goes out to Mr. Jim Rickel of the DoD's Military Community and Family Policy for joining us in this venture and helping to make Ohio one of the top military and veteran friendly states in the nation.

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair Ginter, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 133. I would be happy to answer any of your questions after testimony from my joint sponsor, Representative Weinstein.