

Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security
House Bill 716-Reciprocity
Sponsor Testimony
November 27, 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 as a proponent of HB 716.

Ohio continues to struggle to find the intellectual and human capital that it needs for so many the professional roles that are available throughout the state. As one example, Ohio does not have a teacher shortage in all areas of licensure, but it does have shortages in SOME areas.

Ask any urban or rural superintendent if he/she has sufficient applicants for math, science or foreign language jobs and they will tell you that there are real challenges with finding sufficient applicants for these most in-demand career areas. Ohio has selective licensure shortages, and this legislation offers one option for mitigating the challenges of providing appropriately prepared teachers for Ohio classrooms...HB 716 will not solve the shortage problem, but it will help address the issue.

The spouses of our military personnel represent an incredible asset for our state. Women and men who come to Ohio because of their spouse's military service often have professional licenses that are in areas of demand by Ohio employers, whether in education or some other area professional need. Unfortunately, many of these individuals are forced to sacrifice their opportunities because of the complications associated with securing licensure in Ohio, even though they may possess a similar license from another state.

As others have shared and testified, this circumstance is so prevalent that the Office of Military Community and Family Policy under the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense has identified this problem as one of THE top priorities to address in the coming years.

This legislation will allow Ohio to lead the way around the issue of reciprocity for professionals...and it will keep the military spouses who are stationed here employed and decrease the likelihood that they will have to separate just because they cannot secure a license in a timely fashion.

I am appreciative of all the support that Representative Butler and Representative Perales have evidenced regarding this legislation and in their efforts to make Ohio a national leader as a “welcoming state” for military families.

I proffer this testimony in strong support of HB 716 and thank you for the chance to share my thoughts and perspective on this important legislation.