



Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 341
Presented by Jeff Hoagland, President and CEO, Dayton Development Coalition
Ohio Senate’s Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee
November 17, 2020

Chair Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Minority Member Antonio, and members of the Ohio Senate’s Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Dayton Development Coalition in support of Senate Bill 341, which would enter Ohio into the national Nurse Licensure Compact.

The Dayton Development Coalition is an economic development organization that seeks to attract, retain, and grow jobs in the 14-county Dayton region. This includes attracting and retaining new missions and jobs at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and Springfield Air National Guard Base. With more than 30,000 workers, Wright-Patterson is the largest single-site employer in Ohio. Attracting and retaining jobs at the Base is critical not only to the Dayton region, but to the entire state, since the economic impact of the Base has been estimated at \$15.5 billion annually.

The Coalition supports Senate Bill 341 because it removes a burdensome licensing requirement on qualified nurses who move to Ohio. Passage of this legislation has specific implications for spouses of military personnel who relocate here due to an assignment at Wright-Patterson or any other Ohio military installation. According to the Department of Defense’s Military Community & Family Policy Office, military spouses often encounter difficulty obtaining a professional license upon moving to a new state. Research shows that military spouses and their families face economic and professional hardships as they try to find new employment with each move. By bringing Ohio into the Nursing Licensure Compact—and by joining other professional compacts—Ohio can streamline the process and allow a qualified nurse who is already licensed in another state to obtain new employment more quickly.

The Dayton Development Coalition supports similar legislation establishing licensing compacts for psychology, EMTs, physical therapy and other professions, and we view these bills as one component in an overall strategy to improve the quality of life for our servicemen and women and their families that move to Ohio.

We appreciate the Ohio General Assembly's work in passing House Bill 16, which provides in-state tuition rates for military dependents; House Bill 287 which provides reciprocity on a Medicaid waiver for military families who have a dependent with such a waiver in another state; and Senate Bill 7 which provides reciprocal occupational licenses for military spouses.

Each of these bills has improved the quality of life in Ohio for military families, and collectively they are sending a message that Ohio is the best home for our military men and women and their families. Passage of Senate Bill 341 will continue that trend and help Ohio make the case that we are the best location for new missions.

Earlier this year, the Air Force established a rating system to evaluate communities on friendliness to military families. One criterion involves the ease of military spouses with an occupational license to get a similar license in a state where they move. The Air Force uses those ratings to determine where to locate new missions and jobs. So, Ohio's ability to retain and gain missions is heavily dependent on how we support military spouses and families—and specifically the ease of reciprocal licensing.

The Department of Defense has made it very clear that it will use its leverage as a local economic driver to improve the family-friendly laws and regulations that affect its service members. Ohio military installations, including Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Reserve, and National Guard Bases will be in the running for some of the new missions, which could involve thousands of well-paying jobs.

Passage of Senate Bill 341 and similar legislation is critical to bringing those jobs to Ohio. For this reason, I respectfully ask for your support of this legislation. Thank you.