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RESERVE AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

March 9, 2022

The Honorable Sara P. Carruthers
Chair, Ohio House Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports Committee
77 S. High Street 13th
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Memorandum of Support – SB 204 – AN ACT concerning Interstate Licensed Professional Counselors Compact

Dear Representative Carruthers and Honorable House Behavioral Health and Recovery Supports Committee Members:

On behalf of military families and the Department of Defense, I am writing to express the support of the Department of Defense for the policy changes proposed in SB 204, the Interstate Licensed Professional Counselors Compact (LPCC), which addresses licensing issues affecting our service members and their families. I would like to thank you for considering this issue during the 2022 session.

My name is Jim Rickel. I am the Central Regional Liaison for the Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. Our mission is to be a resource to state policymakers as they work to address quality of life issues of military families.

LPCC seeks to eliminate barriers to interstate professional counseling practice, improve patient access to professional counseling services and enhance public protection through a shared interstate licensure data system.

Of additional benefit is the compact's utilization of a mutual recognition model of interstate practice, which enhances opportunities of portable careers for military spouses by providing consistent rules which allow licensed members to work in other states through "privilege to practice policies", or more easily transfer their license to a new state.

Military families move every three years on average. LPCC helps military spouses relocate and begin work without delay by reducing the amount of time and effort needed to gain authorization to practice in a new state, even as compared to expedited licensure laws for military spouses.

We appreciate the opportunity to support the policies outlined in SB 204 introduced by Senator Kristina D. Roegner. Senator Roegner has previously introduced other compacts that have been successful and subsequently been passed by both chambers and signed by the governor. Joining LPCC will improve access to resources and allow military personnel and spouses to more easily maintain their certifications when relocating. Please feel free to contact me with any questions..

Sincerely,

Jim Rickel
Central Region Liaison
Defense-State Liaison Office

