



**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500**

MANPOWER AND  
RESERVE AFFAIRS

November 25, 2024

Chairman D.J. Swearingen  
Ohio Health Provider Services Committee  
77 S. High St. Floor 13  
Columbus Ohio 43215  
RE: Letter of Support SB 211 – Dietitian Licensure Compact

Dear Chairman Swearingen,

On behalf of military families and the Department of Defense, I am writing to express our support for the policy changes proposed in SB 211, the Dietitian Licensure Compact. This legislation addresses licensing issues affecting service members and their families.

My name is Shane Preston, and I am the Great Lakes Regional Liaison for the Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of the 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 for military families.

The Dietitian Licensure Compact seeks to eliminate barriers to interstate dietitian practice, improve patient access to dietitian 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 and this compact 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.

We appreciate the opportunity to support the policies outlined in SB 211. Joining this compact 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 you have.

**Shane M. Preston**  
*Shane Preston*

Great Lakes Regional Liaison  
Defense-State Liaison Office