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27<sup>th</sup> Senate District



## **Sponsor Testimony**

Senate Bill 218

Ohio Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee

May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Chair Johnson, Vice-Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Weinstein, and Members of the Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on S.B. 218, which upon enactment would provide an exemption to licensure for family child care providers certified by the Department of Defense.

In the past, I have worked in collaboration with the Department of Defense on numerous interstate licensure compacts and learned about the hardships military families face. Many of these hardships stem from the fact that on average, military families usually move every two to three years making it difficult for spouses to secure employment and for families to access quality child care.<sup>1</sup> The Department of Defense has reported that in September of 2023 there were only 793 DoD certified family child care providers<sup>2</sup> with that number rising to 814 in June of 2024.<sup>3</sup> These family child care providers not only offer our military families dependable and personalized care in a homelike setting, but 87% of these providers in fiscal year 2021 were themselves a military spouse<sup>4</sup>.

Currently, military family child care providers are certified by the Department of Defense and often subject to duplicative licensure and registration required by the various states in which they operate. Ohio law recognizes three types of child care providers – child care centers, family child care homes and in-home aides. Family child care homes are further divided into type A and type B family child care homes. Type A and B family child care homes are located at the permanent residence of the administrator in which child care, or publicly funded child care, is

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thesoldiersproject.org/how-often-do-military-families-move/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://download.militaryonesource.mil/StatePolicy/pdfs/2025/discussion-points-military-family-access-to-quality-family-child-care.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/priorities/military-access-to-quality-family-child-care>

<sup>4</sup> <https://download.militaryonesource.mil/StatePolicy/pdfs/2025/discussion-points-military-family-access-to-quality-family-child-care.pdf>

provided. Type A homes are limited to seven to 12 children at one time or four to 12 children, if four or more children at one time are under the age of two.<sup>5</sup> Type B family child care homes are limited to providing child care for one to six children, in which no more than three children may be under two years of age at one time.<sup>6</sup> Type B family child care homes are not required to hold a license from the Department of Children and Youth unless they wish to provide publicly funded child care, while type A family child care homes must be licensed through the Department of Children and Youth regardless of whether they provide publicly funded child care or not. DCY licenses are a provisional license for 12 months followed by a continuous license that is issued after the provisional period. Requirements for receiving and maintaining a license from DCY include:

- a \$25 fee,
- all employees and residents over the age of 18 passing a background check,
- minimum liability insurance of at least \$100,000 per occurrence and \$300,000 dollars in the aggregate,
- completion of self-paced online training, including CPR
- a certificate of occupancy prior to licensure, as well as completion of annual inspections including fire.<sup>7</sup>

These requirements are often surpassed by more stringent certification requirements by the Department of Defense. DoD certification limits care to eight children if all children are between the ages of six and 12, or six children total if two of the children are under the age of two. DoD certification is renewed annually and does not require an application fee with requirements to receive and maintain DoD certification including:

- all employees and residents over the age of 18 passing a background check,
- Minimum liability insurance of \$500,000,
- Completion of 40 hours of orientation and 24 hours of training annually, including CPR,
- Unannounced monthly home visits,

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<sup>5</sup> R.C. 5104.01(WW)

<sup>6</sup> R.C. 5104.01(XX)

<sup>7</sup> <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/chapter-5180:2-13>

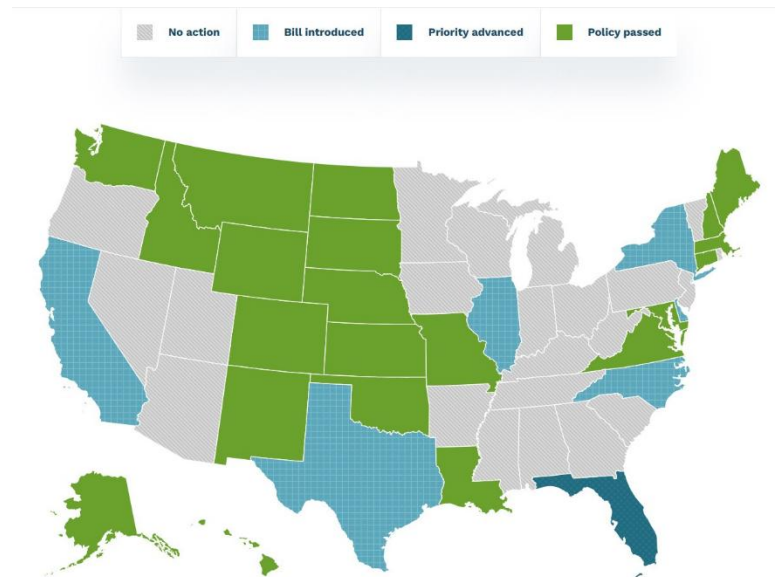
- Unannounced annual safety, health, fire, water and multi-discipline team inspections in accordance with state requirements.<sup>8</sup>

Senate Bill 218 seeks to eliminate this redundant licensure and certification process by simply adding family child care providers certified by any branch of the United States Armed Forces, including the United States Coast Guard, to a list of providers exempt from the requirements of Chapter 5104.<sup>9</sup> This legislation was drafted in collaboration with the Department of Defense with input from the Department of Children and Youth Our liaisons at the Department of Defense and the Department of Children and Youth also provided a side-by-side comparison chart of licensure/certification requirements for the DCY license and DoD license/certification which the committee can find as a general submission.

So far, this legislation has been passed in 21 states with pending legislation in at least seven other states including California, Texas, Illinois, Florida, North Carolina, Delaware, New York and Ohio. Passing Senate Bill 218 would add Ohio to a growing list of states seeking to expand access to quality childcare for military families and reduce barriers for military spouses

who support their families by operating family child care homes and move frequently between states with differing licensure requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.



<sup>8</sup> <https://public.militarychildcare.csd.disa.mil/mcc-central/mcchome/military-operated-child-care-programs>

<sup>9</sup> [Lines 102-104 of the “as Introduced” version of S.B. 218](#)