



MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

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

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**Ohio State Senate
Committee on Health
1 Capitol Square
Ground Floor 040**

**Remarks of
Shane M. Preston
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Defense-State Liaison Office**

SB 320, an act for ratification of the Athletic Trainers Licensure Compact

The Department of War is grateful for the opportunity to support the policies reflected in SB 320, an act for ratification of the Athletic Trainers Licensure Compact. This legislation addresses licensing issues affecting our service members and their families. The purpose of the compact is to facilitate interstate practice of professional health care services with the goal of reducing regulatory barriers and increasing access to care.

My name is Shane Preston, and I am the Great Lakes Region Liaison for the United States Department of War-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of the Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness. Our office works with state officials, policy makers, and stakeholders regarding issues that affect military service members, veterans, and their families.

Licensure issues for both our transitioning military members and their active duty military spouses have been a priority for the Department for several years. The Council of State Governments (CSG) has partnered with the Department of War (DoW) to support the mobility of athletic trainers through the development of interstate compacts. This compact will create reciprocity among participant states and reduce barriers to license portability that many of our military spouses face. To address license portability for military spouses, states have turned to occupational licensure interstate compacts, which streamline relicensing between member states of a compact for all practitioners in an occupation and provide specific support for military spouses of relocating active-duty personnel.

Professional licensure has been an enduring problem for military spouses. Obtaining a license in a new state can be both time consuming and expensive, and military spouses often cannot adequately anticipate how to prepare for licensure in a new state due to the unpredictable nature of military moves. The short duration of military assignments, coupled with lengthy relicensing processes, can discourage military spouses from seeking relicensure, causing them to quit an occupation or causing military families to leave the military. Military spouses are a cross-section of the American population, though a greater percentage of them are in licensed occupations than their civilian counterparts, and they are significantly more mobile. Frequent moves and cumbersome licensing and certification requirements limit career options for military spouses.

Removing these barriers, creating licensing reciprocity, and facilitating placement opportunities can help a military family's financial stability, speed the assimilation of the family into its new location, and create a desirable new employee pool for a state.

The Department of War is grateful for the efforts Ohio has historically made to support our uniformed service members and their families. We appreciate the opportunity to support the policies reflected in SB 320. With the above stated benefits in mind, we look forward to seeing this effort advance to improve the quality of life for all populations we aim to serve. We thank the Chairman for taking up this important legislation and owe a debt of gratitude towards the bill sponsor, Senator Kristina Roegner, for her unwavering support for military families across the Buckeye State.

Respectfully,

Shane Preston

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Great Lakes Regional Liaison

Defense-State Liaison Office