



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

May 4, 2021

Honorable Scott Lipps
Ohio State Representative
77 South High Street 11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Representative Lipps and honorable members of the House Health and Human Services Committee, the Department of Defense is grateful for the opportunity to support the policies reflected in SB 3, the Nurse Licensure Compact, or NLC.

I am Jim Rickel, the Central Region Liaison at the United States Department of Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

In 2021, Ohio has made significant progress with occupational license compacts with passing of the Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Psychology compacts. The Department of Defense sees interstate compacts for occupational licensure as an excellent method of assisting all practitioners in addition to providing reciprocity for military spouses.

Senate Bill 3 seeks to address such recommendation through the long-term solution of the NLC.

The Secretaries of the Military Departments have made the importance of military spouse licensure explicitly clear as they consider the availability of license reciprocity when evaluating future basing or mission alternatives. This consideration was codified by Congress as a requirement in the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act.

Occupational 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 employment, causing them to quit an occupation or causing military families to leave the military.

States have committed to using interstate compacts, which establish common understanding of competency and its measurement within the occupation, to resolve the interstate issue of license portability. One such example is the NLC, which allows an active duty service member, or their spouse, to designate a home state where the individual has a current license in good standing.

The NLC, now active in 35 states, allows nurses to obtain multistate license to practice in these states, saving them from the cost of having to apply for an additional license in each state.

As we learned from the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic demonstrates that interstate licensure compacts can provide a permanent solution to leverage underutilized medical talent to meet labor shortages in high-need areas.

On behalf of Department of Defense, supporting the NLC is supporting the service men and women of our armed forces and their families.

In closing, we are grateful for the tremendous efforts that Ohio has historically made supporting our service members and their families. We appreciate the opportunity supporting these policies and are especially grateful to Senator Kristina Roegner who not only sponsored SB 3, but was also the sponsor of the Occupational Therapy (SB 7) and Physical Therapy (SB 5) Licensure Compacts signed by the Governor on March 31, 2021.

Sincerely,

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(IN, IL, OH, MI, ND, SD, WI, WV)
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