



Proponent Testimony on House Bill 252
Presented by Jeff Hoagland, President and CEO, Dayton Development Coalition
Ohio Senate Health Committee
Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Ohio Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Dayton Development Coalition in support of House Bill 252, which would enable Ohio to join the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC), allowing eligible audiologists and speech language pathologists to work in multiple states.

I would like to thank two Dayton area legislators, Rep. Andrea White and Rep. Phil Plummer for introducing this important legislation. I also want to express my appreciation for Committee Vice Chair Sen. Antani’s long-standing support for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, which is partially located in his Senate district.

The Dayton Development Coalition is an economic development organization that seeks to attract, retain, and grow jobs in the 14-county Dayton Region. This includes attracting and retaining new missions and jobs at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and Springfield Air National Guard Base. With more than 30,000 workers, Wright-Patterson is the largest single-site employer in Ohio. Attracting and retaining jobs at the Base is critical not only to the Dayton Region, but to the entire state, since the economic impact of the Base has been estimated at \$15.5 billion annually.

The Coalition supports House Bill 252 – as well as a number of other national licensure compacts – because these compacts streamline what could otherwise be a burdensome licensing requirement for spouses of military personnel who are assigned to serve in Ohio. Under the ASLP-IC, audiologists and speech pathologists licensed in their home state who qualify can then provide services in compact member states.

The Department of Defense's Military Community and Family Policy Office has noted that military spouses often encounter difficulty obtaining a professional license upon moving to a new state. Research shows that military spouses and their families face economic and professional hardships as they try to find new employment with each move. By bringing Ohio into the ASLP-IC—and by joining other professional compacts—Ohio can streamline the process and allow qualified professionals who are already licensed in another state to obtain new employment more quickly.

The Dayton Development Coalition appreciates the Ohio General Assembly's efforts in passing many other bills over the past few years to provide better services to military families or ease their transition to Ohio. Each of these bills has improved the quality of life in Ohio for military families, and collectively they are sending a message that Ohio is the best home for our military men and women and their families. Passage of this bill will continue that trend and help Ohio make the case that we are the best location for new defense missions. For this reason, I respectfully ask for your support of this legislation. Thank you.