



**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**  
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MANPOWER AND  
RESERVE AFFAIRS

May 24, 2021

Honorable Stephen A. Huffman  
Chair, Senate Health Committee  
Ohio State Senate Building  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chair Huffman,

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health Committee, on behalf of the Department of Defense, I am writing in support of HB 252, which addresses licensing issues affecting our Service members and their families.

My name is James Rickel and I am a 30-year United States Navy veteran and the Central Regional Liaison for the Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Community and Family Policy. Our mission is to be a resource to state policymakers as they work to address quality of life issues for our military families. We would like to thank Representative Andrea White and Representative Phil Plummer for sponsoring HB 252, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.

Licensure issues for both our transitioning military members and the spouses have been a priority for the Department for several years. States are now considering licensure compacts for several occupations. The Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact provides consistent rules that allow licensed members to work in other states through “privilege to practice policies” or to more easily transfer their license to a new state. The military provisions added to these compacts assist military members and their spouses to participate in these occupational compacts.

Benefits of interstate compacts include:

- “Privilege to practice” policies that allow members in compact states to work in other compact states, while ensuring that audiologists and speech-language pathologists have met acceptable standards of practice.
- Promoting cooperation between ASLP-IC member states on interstate licensure and regulation requirements.
- Improved methods for allowing endorsements when members need to transfer a license, primarily based upon changing legal residence.
- Tele-health practice opportunities using technology to work across state boundaries to meet the needs of clients, patients and students.

As our military members and their families move from state to state, obtaining licenses in order to obtain employment is very important. These compacts will serve to relieve one of the many stressors of a military move.

In closing, please let me say that we are grateful for the tremendous effort that Ohio has historically made supporting our military members and their families. We appreciate the opportunity to support the licensing compact reflected in HB 252. We again thank Representatives White and Plummer for their sponsorship of this issue. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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