



Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 2
Presented by Jeff Hoagland, President and CEO, Dayton Development Coalition
Ohio House of Representatives Judiciary Committee
Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Chair Manning, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Minority Member Thomas, and members of the Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Dayton Development Coalition in support of Senate Bill 2, which would enter Ohio into the national Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact, also known as PSYPACT.

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 Senate Bill 2 – 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.

The Department of Defense’s Military Community & 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 PSYPACT—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 PSYPACT interstate cooperative agreement has other benefits such as expanding access to services in rural communities through the use of telepsychology. Such expansion of services will benefit our residents who struggle with depression and other mental health issues, including drug and opioid abuse.

We appreciate the Ohio General Assembly's work in passing many other bills over the past few years that 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 Senate Bill 2 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.