Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair Ginter, and Ranking Member Kelly and members of the Armed Services, Veteran Affairs, and Homeland Security Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify alongside my friend Representative Rick Perales on behalf of House Bill 33, a bill that will mandate temporary license for professional occupations for Active Duty military members and their spouses.

My husband and the absolute love of my life, First Lieutenant Monte McKinnon, is currently an Electrical Engineer in the United States Air Force. We have been together almost ten years now. Since before we first met, my husband has wanted to be a pilot for the US Air Force. We have fought hard and I am proud to say that he has recently taken a position in Tacoma, Washington as a C-17 pilot. Why Guard and Reserve you might ask? Guard and Reserve provide the opportunity for each of us to follow our dreams as we are stationed in one location for the duration of his military service. If he were to fly for Active Duty, I would be unable to work for years at a time tue to a lack of education licensure reciprocity among states. So no matter where we move to, I will have an uphill battle to achieve my own dream of teaching.

I grew up in a small town that people have to fight to get out of. In order to help kids that needed it the most, I knew I had to be different. After years of hard work, self discovery and growth, I am now a very proud Special Education Teacher. I live my dream every day. I currently work in a school most people wouldn’t, fighting for kids who fight me back just as hard. Sadly, Ohio only gave me one year to make a difference -- next year I will be unemployed due to my inability to receive reciprocity for my education certification in Washington State.

Moving around fighting a broken system has brought my family to its knees. We will be sacrificing a life of Active Duty and all of its benefits so I am able to create change in the hearts of children who truly need me. We hope by making this decision for our family, our two beautiful children will learn to fight for what brings them purpose. I appreciate the options the military provides, as they have allowed my husband to follow his dreams and me follow mine alongside him. We will be sad to see Active Duty life go, as it has been an amazing chapter in our lives.

It is for this reason, among many more, that I request consideration of House Bill 33. Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair Ginter, and Ranking Member Kelly and members of the Armed Services, Veteran Affairs, and Homeland Security Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to testify today and will answer any questions you may have.