



May 25, 2021

Dear Senators,

On behalf of thousands Concerned Veterans for America activists across Ohio, I urge you to support SB 131, a bill that would institute licensing recognition for qualified civilian and military professionals with credentials outside of Ohio.

SB 131 will significantly reduce barriers for workers in numerous occupations who come from the rest of the country to join our great state, including active duty military and veterans. With some additional stipulations such as being in good standing, this bill provides a path to Ohio licensing recognition for individuals with:

- A valid government license or other granted authority from another state and one year or more of experience;
- Two years of work experience and private sector certification performing an occupation licensed in Ohio if coming from a state that doesn't license the profession; and
- Three years of work experience performing an occupation licensed in Ohio if coming from a state that doesn't license the profession.

In addition to helping civilians, SB 131 would also aid military families and veterans. In states without universal licensing recognition, military spouses, often frequently on the move, must continually shoulder the burden of requalifying for licenses, regardless of their experience. For veterans, SB 131 ensures that Ohio licensing boards treat valid military credentials and occupational experience gained during service as equivalent qualifications to out-of-state credentials for Ohio licensing recognition.

Occupational experience gained in another state shouldn't hold back those who want to earn a living in Ohio, and neither should skills developed while serving our country. SB 131 removes both barriers.

Finally, reducing licensing burdens can make our communities safer. In states with more onerous licensing, research suggests that these barriers to employment reduce [entrepreneurship](#) among low-income residents. Onerous licensing is also being associated with higher [crime rates](#) and more [recidivism](#). In other words, states that make it easier to earn an honest living tend to also be safer.

Ohioans, and those wishing to move here and contribute to our economy, including veterans and military families, deserve the dignity of personal choice as consumers and the ability to support their families without undue government burdens. For Ohio to make as strong a recovery as possible after the enormous challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, it should be a destination for new residents ready to help grow our economy. Taking our employment laws into the 21st century can make us one.

Please support licensing recognition by voting YES on SB 131 for our many current and future Ohio families, both civilian and military.

Sincerely,

Adam Miller
Community Engagement Director
Concerned Veterans for America - Ohio