



Key Message

Many military spouse professionals must relicense each time they move to a new state with their active-duty spouse. States can facilitate the ability of professionals, including military spouses, to work across state lines by enacting occupational licensure interstate compacts.

Discussion Points

1. The Defense-State Liaison Office assists national state boards and membership associations in educating legislators on the benefits of their licensure compacts to the military community. The DSLO is currently assisting with the following compacts:

- Nurse Licensure: NLC
- Advanced Practice Registered Nurse: APRN
- Physical Therapy: PT
- Occupational Therapy: OT
- Emergency Medical Services: EMS
- Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact: PSYPACT
- Counseling Compact
- Audiology and Speech-Language-Hearing Interstate Compact: ASLP-IC

2. These compacts provide the following benefits to members of the military community:

- The NLC, APRN, PT, OT, ASLP-IC and Counseling compacts allow military spouses to designate a home state for their license and use the “privilege to practice” provision to work in any member state without obtaining another license.
- The EMS compact simplifies endorsement requirements for transferring a license.
- The PSYPACT compact supports telepractice and temporary practice for 30 days. This improves access to mental health services for military families while allowing military spouses who are psychologists to sustain a counseling practice through telecommunications in compact states.

3. The coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic demonstrates that interstate licensure compacts can provide a permanent solution to leveraging underused medical talent to meet labor shortages in high-need areas.



An increasing number of occupations are establishing interstate compacts to support:

- Common understanding of standards
- States sharing authority and responsibility over occupational-based practices
- “Privilege to practice” policies allowing members to work in other compact states
- Allowing endorsements for a license transfer, primarily based upon changing legal residence
- Telepractice opportunities using technology to work across state boundaries