



MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

November 3, 2023

The Honorable Matthew Koch
Co-Chair, Interim Joint Committee Licensing, Occupations, & Administrative Regulations
Kentucky House
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of military families and the DoD to express support the Emergency Medical Services Compact (EMS), Message Therapy Compact (Impact), Social Work Compact (SWIC), and Dentistry/Dental Hygiene Compact (Dentistry). These are part of a group of Interstate Compacts which address licensing concerns affecting our service members and their families. These compacts are considered part of the top ten Personnel and Readiness issues.

You may recall the licensure compacts seek to eliminate barriers to interstate professional practice, improve patient access to professional services, and enhance public protection through a shared interstate licensure data system. The compact's utilization of a mutual recognition model of interstate practice enhances opportunities of portable careers for military spouses by providing consistent rules which allow licensed members to work in other states through "privilege to practice policies", or more easily, transfer their license to a new state.

Military families move every three years on average. These compacts help military spouses relocate and begin work without delay by reducing the amount of time and effort needed to gain authorization to practice in a new state, even as compared to the expedited licensing laws which have been established for military spouses.

Although some states such as Kentucky extend an extra effort to help military spouses with employment opportunities, a military family's next move to another state can create a new set of problems, since procedures are inconsistent from state to state. This situation is alleviated through interstate Compacts. Thank you for considering these valued opportunities. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have: 571-309-7589.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric S. Sherman".

Eric S. Sherman
Southeast Regional Liaison
Defense-State Liaison Office

CC: Sen. John Schickel
Rep Mark Hart
Rep D. J. Johnson
Rep Candy Massaroni
Rep Ken Fleming
Rep Lisa Willner
BG Steven P. Bullard, USAF/ANG RET