



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

MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

February 10, 2020

Honorable Representative Brad M. Daw
Chair, House Committee on Health and Human Services
350 North State, Suite 350
PO Box 145030
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Chair Daw and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Department of Defense, I am writing in support of the policy changes expressed in HB 161, which addresses licensing issues affecting our military service members and their families.

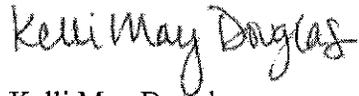
I am the Regional Liaison for the Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Community and Family Policy. Our mission is to be a resource to state policymakers as they work to address quality of life issues of military families.

Licensure issues for both our transitioning military members and the spouses have been a priority for the Department for several years. States are now considering licensure compacts for several occupations. One of those compacts, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact, provides consistent rules that allow licensed members to work in other states through "privilege to practice policies" or to more easily transfer their license to a new state. As our military service members and their families move from state to state, obtaining new licenses in order to gain employment is very important. These compacts will serve to relieve one of the many stressors of a military move. Other benefits of interstate compacts include:

- Common understanding of standards.
- Mechanisms for states to share authority and responsibility to oversee occupational practice.
- "Privilege to practice" policies that allow members in compact states to work in other compact states.
- Improved methods for allowing endorsements when members need to transfer a license, primarily based upon changing legal residence.
- Tele-practice opportunities using technology to work across state boundaries.

In closing, we are grateful for the tremendous effort that Utah has historically made to support our military members and their families. We appreciate the opportunity to support the licensing compact reflected in HB 161. We thank Representative Owens for his sponsorship of this important policy proposal. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



Kelli May Douglas
Southwest Regional Liaison
Defense-State Liaison Office
ODASD, Military Community & Family Policy
571-265-0075

CC: Representative Derrin Owens