



MANPOWER AND  
RESERVE AFFAIRS

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**  
1600 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1600

The Honorable Scott Kawasaki  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 502  
Juneau, AK 99801

March 26, 2018

Dear Representative Kawasaki,

On behalf of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy, I want to thank you for sponsoring House Bill 262. This legislation will support a significant 2018 Department of Defense priority for state occupational licensing boards to support licensure requirements for transitioning active duty military spouses.

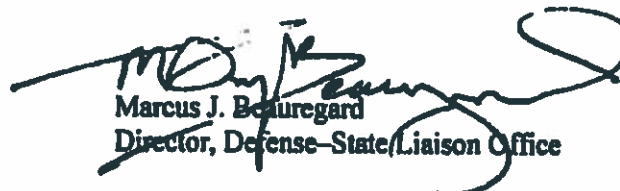
The Department is grateful to the Alaska legislature for making great strides over the past many years to improve the transition of military members and their family from the "lower 48" to/from Alaska. Such is the case with House Bill 28 enacted in 2011 regarding the granting of temporary courtesy licenses for certain nonresident professionals such as military spouses with active licenses from another state. The reporting requirements being considered this session in your HB 262 will help to assess the actions of licensing boards and encourage, as appropriate, the implementation of changes to laws and regulatory policy.

Military families often require two incomes to achieve their aspirations, similar to American families as a whole. Frequent moves can inhibit military spouses' ability to start and sustain a career. Differing licensing requirements can limit advancement or deter re-entry into the workforce at a new location. Spouses often suffer long periods of unemployment and, therefore, loss of needed income to the family.

We want to provide as much information and support as possible as your policy recommendation in HB 262 moves forward in upcoming hearings.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 571-372-5357 or Dale Vande Hey at 571-236-7833. ([dale.m.vandehey.civ@mail.mil](mailto:dale.m.vandehey.civ@mail.mil)) our Regional State Liaison currently covering Alaska.

Sincerely,



Marcus J. Beuregard  
Director, Defense State Liaison Office



THE STATE  
of ALASKA  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

## Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs

Office of the Commissioner

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February 2, 2018

The Honorable Chris Tuck, Chair  
Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs  
Alaska House of Representatives  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 204  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chair Tuck:

I write to offer three frames of reference through which to view the testimony provided Thursday on military service member and military spouse occupational licensing in Alaska.

First, the military component perspective. Secretary of the Air Force Deborah James spoke at the Association of Defense Communities National Summit last summer. She explained the vital role communities play in base viability by meeting the needs of military service members. In her words: "We recruit airmen, but retain families." In other words, family needs are the biggest determinant of whether a service member chooses to remain on active duty until retirement. Those service members who leave because of family needs constitute a tremendous loss to the organization and the nation in terms of the cost of training, real world experience, and maximizing readiness.

As she explained, those critical family needs are straightforward. When a service member is assigned to a new base, s/he asks three questions: What is the housing like in which my family and I will live? What are the schools like for my children? Can my spouse find meaningful employment?

A community that does not have positive answers to these three questions creates family stressors that hurt retention. In turn, this creates a disincentive for the military to invest in and grow military force structure at bases where the answers to these questions are hurting retention. Of note, optimizing military spouse occupational licensing presents a means to address one of these questions with minimal public or private sector funding compared to the other issues.

Second, the business perspective. On Tuesday, the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation released its 2018 Economic Forecast. Of note from polling business owners, the lack of skilled/professional workers was identified as the fourth highest barrier to business growth next year, with 59 percent of the respondents identifying it as a problem. Optimizing military spouse and military education-based occupational licensing provides a cost effective way to fill at least part of this gap.

Finally, the veterans' perspective. When service members prepare to leave the military at the end of their terms of enlistment or at retirement, they attend formal transition assistance program (TAP) briefings and classes. The TAP provides assistance with resume writing, interview practice, and job-hunting. In classes in Alaska in which I have conducted mock interviews, 30-40 percent of attendees stated their wishes to remain in Alaska after separation from the military. Far fewer actually do. The overwhelming reason is the lack of confirmed employment. Optimizing military spouse and military education-based occupational licensing assures all career paths appropriate to their education and training are available to these new veterans and their spouses.

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Chair Tuck

Numerically, the Alaska veteran population is growing by about five percent, or 3,500 per year. Virtually all of these new veterans are within their work life expectancy. Appropriate occupational licensing enhances our ability to retain them as Alaskans.

I hope this information is useful. Thank you for your efforts to engage our service members and their families in all aspects of life here in Alaska. Please let me know if I may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert A. K. Doehl". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Robert A. K. Doehl  
Deputy Commissioner

## **William Jodwalis**

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**From:** Rep. Chris Tuck  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2018 2:31 PM  
**To:** William Jodwalis  
**Subject:** FW: HB 262 Testimony for the Record

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

You can add this to your bill packet for the next committee. We received it just today. -Kendra

**From:** David Boyle [mailto:dboyle@alaskapolicyforum.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2018 7:48 AM  
**To:** Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lora Reinbold <Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB 262 Testimony for the Record

The Honorable Chris Tuck, Chair  
Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs  
Alaska House of Representatives  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 204  
Juneau, AK 99801

February 15, 2018

Dear Chairman Tuck,

I am writing in support of HB262, Military Spouse Courtesy License. This bill will enable military spouses to continue to participate in the Alaska economy, provide needed services to Alaskans, and more importantly provide harmony to those military families stationed in Alaska.

I would like to recommend several additions to the bill. Recommend that the current regulation which states "Spouses of active duty military personnel with Alaska orders may request that their temporary or courtesy licensing applications be expedited according to AS 08.01.063" be changed to include those spouses whose Active Duty members are assigned to "short tour" areas (Permanent Change of Station orders). Reasoning: When military members receive PCS orders to unaccompanied areas (e.g. Korea), their spouses and families usually remain in Alaska. This change in the regulation would enable the spouse to practice their profession while the Active Duty spouse is assigned to a short unaccompanied tour.

I would also like to recommend that the statute be changed to include healthcare professionals and teachers. As you know there is a serious shortage of special education teachers in many Alaska school districts. Allowing courtesy licenses for teachers would help alleviate this shortage and be a win-win for both school districts and military spouses. Teachers who are certified in other states are no less qualified than Alaska certified teachers. In the past, DOD teachers have taught Alaskan students at several Alaska bases/posts while not having Alaska licenses.

I also recommend that Active Duty military spouses who are registered nurses be provided courtesy licensing. My wife is a registered nurse and has had her licensure from Pennsylvania. She has practiced in Illinois, Texas, Colorado, Florida, Nebraska, and Alaska in the Air Force and VA. She has been an ER nurse, flight nurse, hospital in-patient nurse, Chief Nurse at Elmendorf AFB hospital (3rd Medical Group), Air Force medical group commander (45th Medical Group, Patrick

AFB FL), and the Chief Nurse at the Alaska VA. All the while with a Pennsylvania license. I can assure her nursing care/practice did not suffer because she did not have an Alaska license. Matter of fact, if you needed nursing care, you would want her at your bedside, regardless of her licensure.

So, when it comes to teaching and nursing, it matters little the source of one's licensure. What really matters is the quality of teaching and nursing. By providing teacher and nurse courtesy licenses to Active Duty military spouses, the State Of Alaska reaps the

rewards of qualified professionals who add to the Alaska economy and also improve the morale of the military family.

Thank you for offering this bill and I hope you thoughtfully consider the above recommendations. This is the least we can do for our military families.

Request this letter be made part of the record on HB262.

Very respectfully,

David Boyle  
Alaska Policy Forum  
907-444-4970