



DEFENSE-STATE LIAISON OFFICE

Tammie Perreault, Northwest Regional Liaison

Working with state policymakers to support
military families



Military Matters: 2020 Key Issues

The Defense-State Liaison Office works with Department of Defense leaders and other stakeholders to choose 10 issues to focus on each year.

If it's a priority for military families, it's a priority for us.

See an overview of where your state stands on key issues for military families at statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil.



2020 Key Personnel and Readiness Issues Supporting Service Members and Families

Licensing compacts recognizing separating Service members and military spouses: An increasing number of occupations are establishing compacts that facilitate portability of licenses and opportunities to work in member states with an existing license. Having States enact laws approving these compacts further expedites licensure in these occupations for separating Service members and military spouses.

Implementation of supportive licensure laws: Most States have established laws that support licensure requirements for transitioning Service members and active duty military spouses; however, research has shown that some licensing boards have not fulfilled the intent of these laws. State legislatures can assist by requesting occupational licensing boards report on their efforts to implement these laws.

Enhanced state initiatives to improve military spouse license portability: States have established various policies to improve license portability for military spouses; however, many of these revised policies do too little to address career turmoil experienced by military spouses. States can continue to make improvements by either revising the process or improving board compliance with previous enacted improvements.

Facilitate military spouse teacher certification: Military spouse teachers often encounter difficulty acquiring licensure in a state after a move. Providing flexibility in states accepting an existing standard certificate, establishing a temporary certificate, or expediting application and adjudication processes may alleviate the delays in garnering certification to teach in that particular state.

Advance enrollment: Military children attend an average of 6-8 schools during their school life. Military families transferring on official orders are usually not eligible to register in courses, programs or lotteries for charter/magnet school entry until they are physically located within district boundaries. Schools could allow preliminary registration/enrollment or application pending relocation and waive proof of residence until the family moves.

In-state tuition continuity: In many States, students with a military sponsor stationed in a State are considered in-State for tuition purposes. However, if the sponsor has a change of station out of State between receiving their letter of acceptance and start of classes the student loses this status. States can alleviate this burden by allowing a spouse or child of an active Service member assigned to duty out-of-State to be deemed an in-State resident for purposes of determining tuition/fees at all State learning institutions as long as the spouse or child resides continuously in-State.

Virtual school enrollment: Military families seek continuity and stability for their children's education. Virtual schools can provide a bridge for military children transitioning to a new school district where they may no longer have access to specific curricula. Eligible military children could participate without a residence requirement if moving to/from the school within impacted states and for the gaining school, to accept credits taken through the virtual program.

State policy to support identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect: State laws do not require child protective services to identify military families in cases of child abuse and neglect, or to report cases to the appropriate military authorities. Changes in State law can support both local government and the Military Departments concurrently assisting in child abuse or neglect cases involving military families.

Allow Service members to retain their earned priority for receiving Medicaid home and community care waivers: Because States frequently have long waiting lists, Service members face large gaps in service every time they transfer across state lines. Allowing Service members to enroll their exceptional family member in the State they designate as their legal residence (e.g., where they pay taxes, vote) can stabilize their request for support.

"Ask the Question" campaign: Encourages states to engage all helping agencies (healthcare, social services, education, and others) to ask the question, "Have you or a family member ever served in the military?" and have the question on all intake forms. State veterans affairs organizations may provide exceptional services to veterans who self-identify/seek those services.

MILITARY STATE POLICY SOURCE

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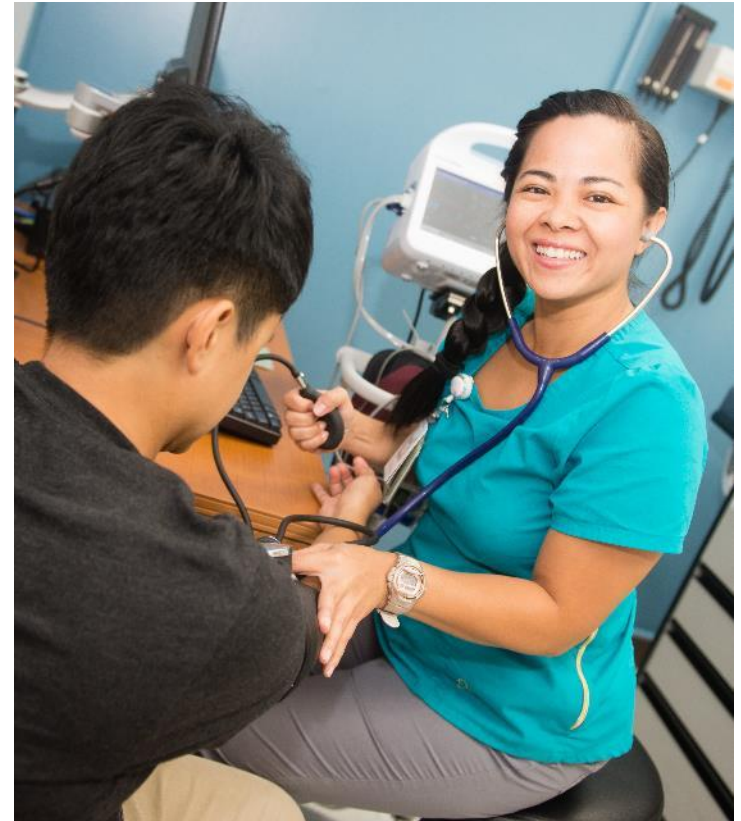


Why this Matters?

68% of married Service Members report their spouse's ability to maintain a career impacts their decision to remain in the military...

77% of military spouses report they want or need to work...

As many as 34% of military spouses are required to maintain occupational licensure for employment.



1. DMDC Status of Force Survey of Active Duty Members
2. Survey of Active Duty Spouses
3. Blue Star Families Survey, May 2010



Alaska Military Spouse Demographics

Active Spouse Population: 11,154

Reserve Spouses: 2,729

2.5% of Alaska's total State Workforce

2nd largest percentage of any State

2,313 Licensed Spouses

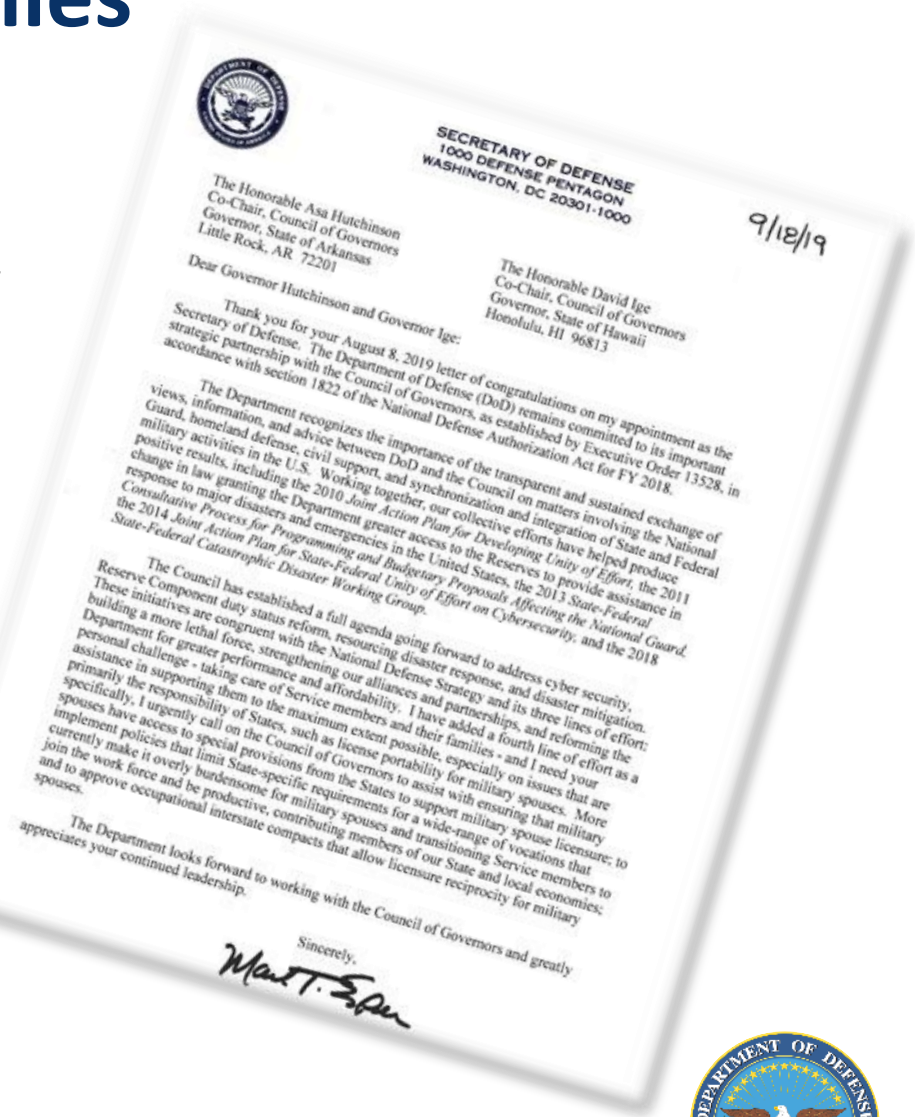
Source: <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/data-research-and-statistics/reports/military-spouse-licensure-reports>



Committed to Families

"...I urgently call on the Council of Governors to assist with ensuring that military spouses have access to special provisions from the States to support military spouse licensure; To implement policies that limit State-specific requirements for a wide range of vocations that currently make it overly burdensome for military spouses and transitioning Service members to join the work force and be productive, contributing members of our State and local economies; and to approve interstate compacts that allow licensure reciprocity for military spouses."

--Secretary Of Defense Esper



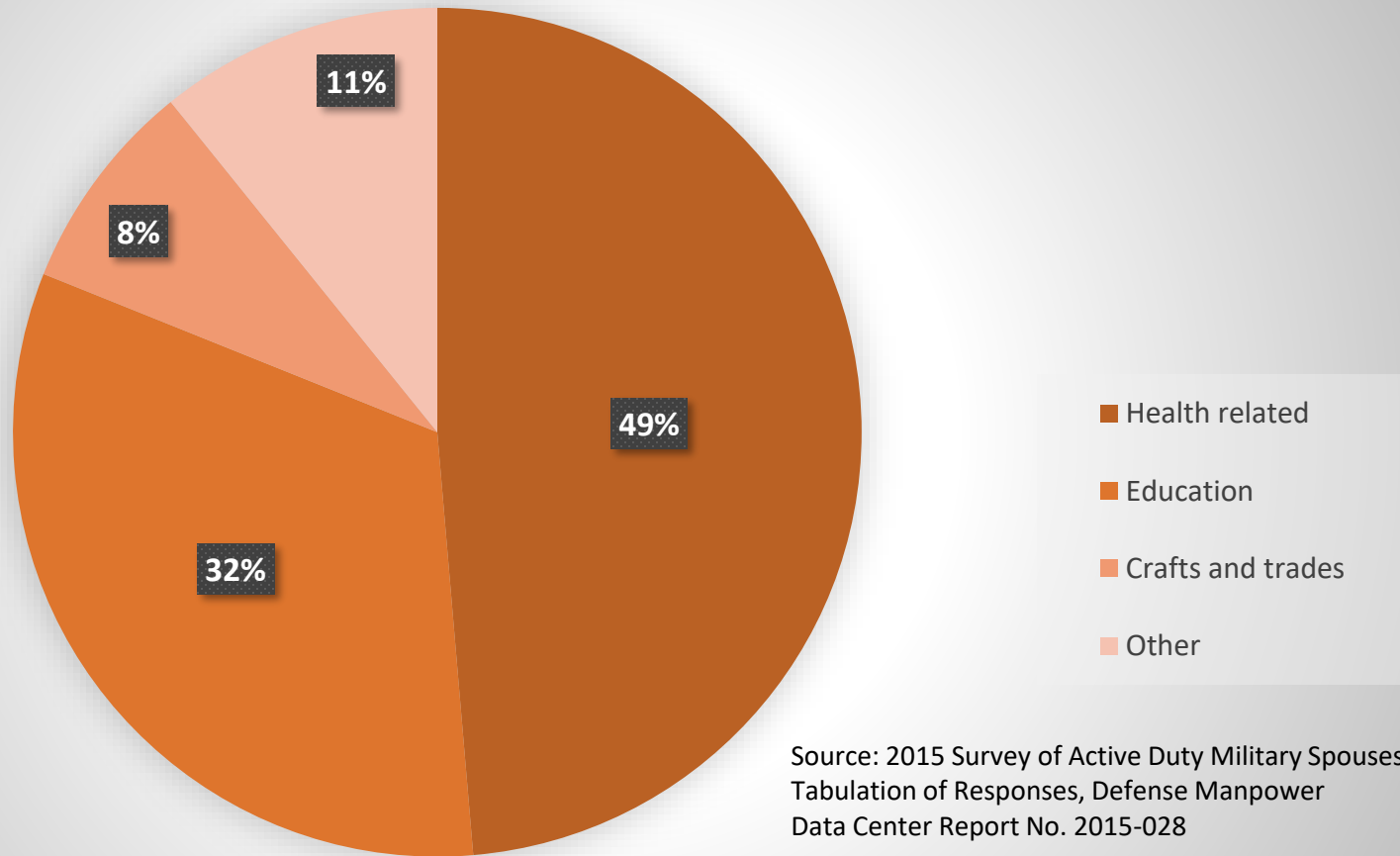
Where have we been?

- **University of Minnesota** studied 6 occupations in 50 states
- Validated:
 - 42 states provide **temporary licensing**
 - 39 states make **endorsement** of existing licenses available and attainable
 - 31 states **expedite** the process of getting a license
- Other findings:
 - **Endorsement, temporary and expedited generally did not relieve the underlying burden of licensing – only made the process faster**
 - Military spouse frequently must still provide transcripts, course descriptions, and test scores to prove current license in good standing meets the new state's equivalency requirements.
 - Temporary licensing often requires an application for permanent license
 - States/Boards often did not implement their state law

Study commissioned by the Department of Defense, <https://reachmilitaryfamilies.umn.edu/research/document/13865>



Distribution of Licensed Occupations



Source: 2015 Survey of Active Duty Military Spouses:
Tabulation of Responses, Defense Manpower
Data Center Report No. 2015-028



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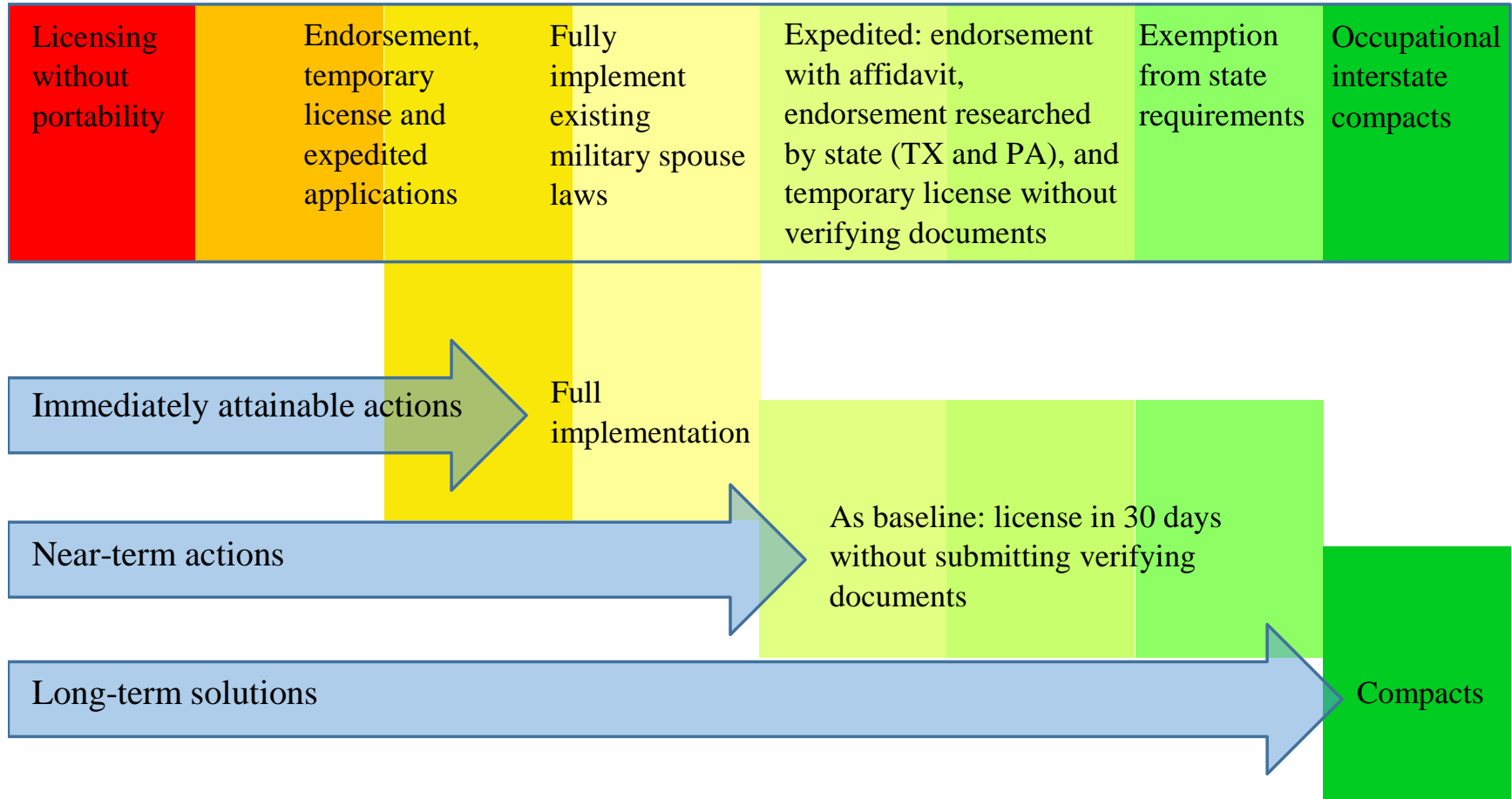
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Licensure Portability:

Reciprocity: A continuum of opportunities to transfer an occupational license between states



Here and ready to support your efforts.

The Defense-State Liaison Office stands ready to help you make change in these areas and others that matter to military families.

How can we assist you?

Call anytime to learn more and get started.

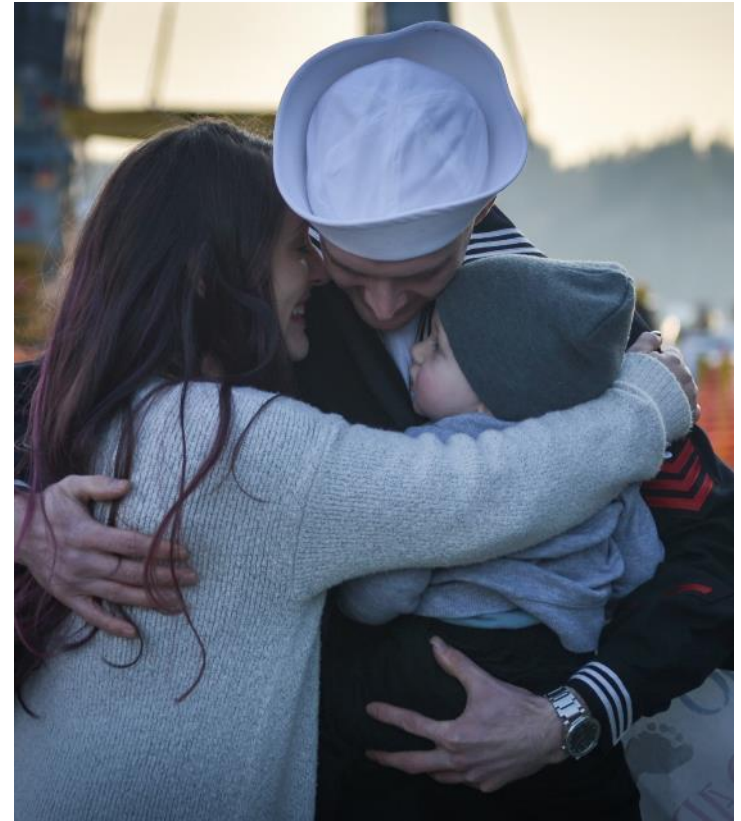
For additional information, visit statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil

Thank you for helping our military families.

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