

Heidi Redmond

From: TnC Randolph <randolph91@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 12:59 PM
To: Rep. Doug Isaacson
Subject: Military Spouse Residency Relief Act

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Mr. Isaacson,

I just wanted to add my voice in support of the Military Spouse Residency Relief Act. I am married to a 20 year member of the United States Air Force. My husband is planning on a 25 year career as he has recently been promoted to E-9, Chief Master Sgt. He is currently stationed out of Eielson AFB as the Deputy Fire Chief.

We have lived in Nebraska, Missouri, New Mexico, Virginia, Alaska and Germany. The ability to maintain our driver's license is helpful to us for two reasons. One is residency. Many of us maintain homes in the various states we have been stationed in. Many of us plan on returning to one of these states after retirement. Is it hard to get a new driver's license? No, of course not. But when one is away from home, is it "just" a driver's license or is it a connection to our "home" state while we are away?

The second isn't a reason for the individual, but rather the state that issued the license. I would think a state that wishes to retain its citizens would think on that point. In our travels, it is not uncommon to find we identify with one state over another, the ability to maintain the state identity is a touch of home and in return, helps reinforce where a citizen needs to be when they have parted ways with active duty. Far easier a decision is made when one has seen themselves as, for example, "Alaskan" since they lived there.

While I am not one of those people who feel that a driver's license is the map to where my heart lies and again, it's really not that hard to get a new one but I do recognize for others there is a slight advantage to both the State and the Individual for this act to pass.

Cathy Randolph

"Always be yourself, unless you can be a dragon.
Then always be a dragon." -unknown