



Key Military Quality of Life Issues for State Policy



U.S. Department of Defense

M
STATE POLICY

Who We Are and What We Do

The Defense-State Liaison Office provides state policymakers with insight on issues affecting military families and their quality of life.

The DSLO:

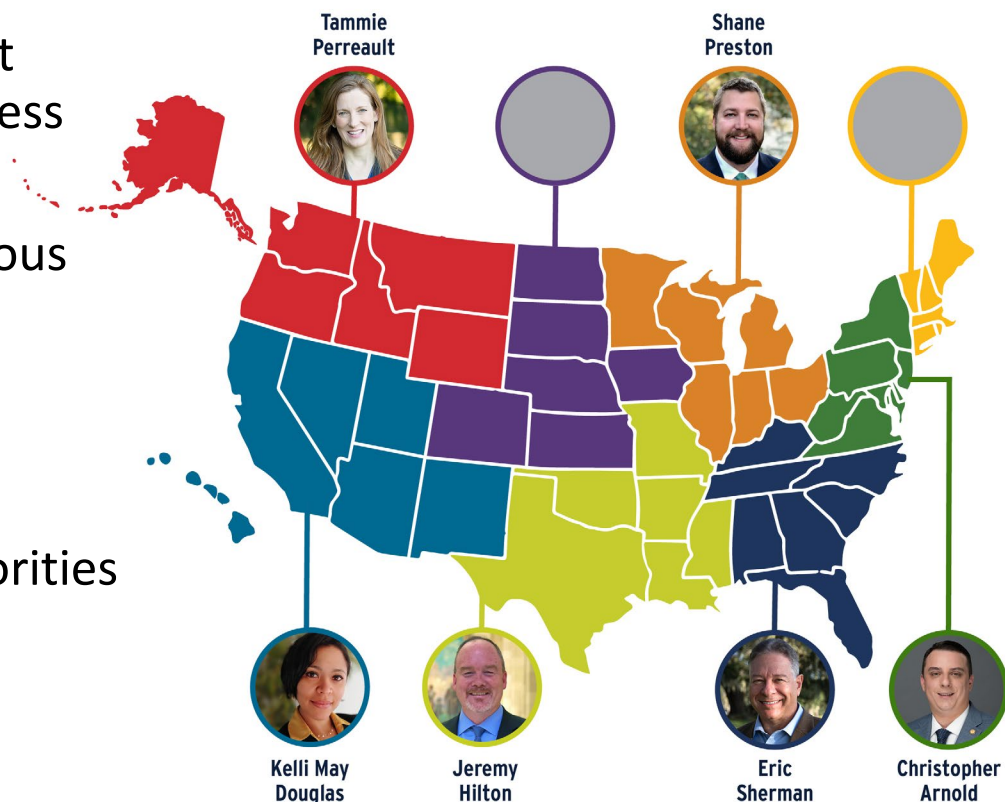
- Provides reliable information and research
- Shares knowledge of policies and processes
- Offers assistance with legislation at the state level



Role of Regional Liaisons

A staff of 8 Defense-State Liaison Office liaisons work with state policymakers to make changes to help military families by:

- Delivering personalized support throughout the legislative process
- Offering insights into military life and knowledge of how various issues impact military families
- Applying their experience in policymaking to help push through needed legislation and establish state-specific priorities



Taking Care of Our Military Families

September 2022 DOD Memo: Taking Care of Our Service Members and Their Families

"The Department of Defense has a sacred obligation to take care of our service members and families. Doing so is a national security imperative. Our military families provide the strong foundation for our force, and we owe them our full support."

– Lloyd J. Austin, secretary of defense

September 2021 Joining Forces Report: Strengthening America's Military Families

"The families of our service members and veterans, caregivers, and survivors ... may not wear a uniform ... but they sacrifice for us all. They give their best to the United States, and we owe them nothing but our best in return."

– Dr. Jill Biden, first lady of the U.S.



Key Issues



**Enhanced Military
Spouse Licensure
Portability**



**Military Spouse
Occupational
Licensure Access**



Licensing Compacts



**Purple Star
Schools Program**



**Open Enrollment
Flexibility**



**Child Abuse
Identification and
Reporting**



**Concurrent Juvenile
Jurisdiction**



**Licensure Exemptions
for Military Family
Child Care Providers**



**Defining Armed
Forces**

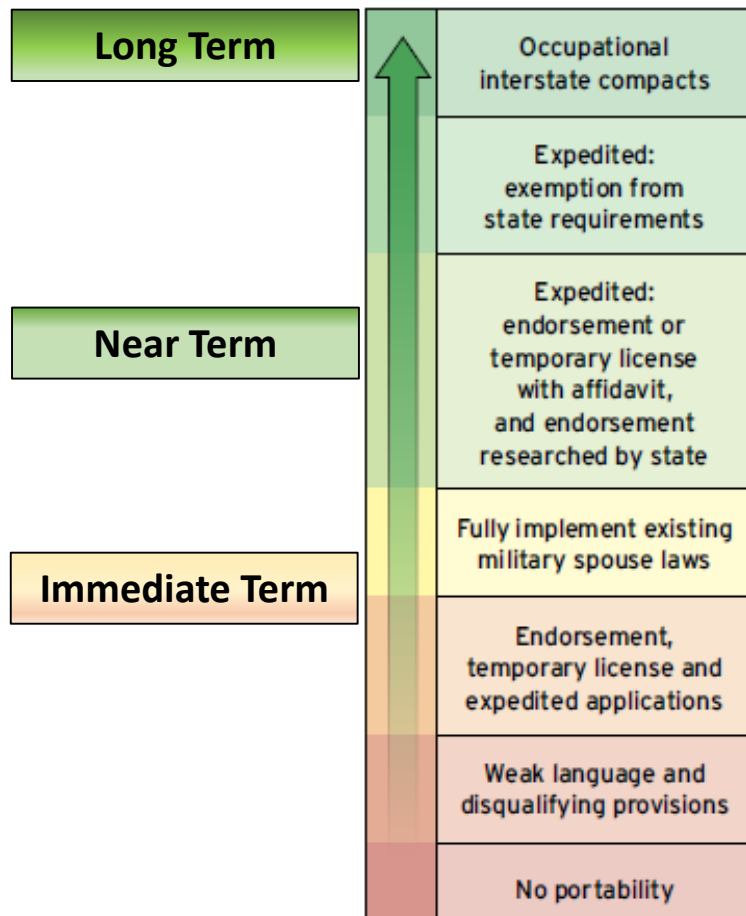


**Military and Family
Life Counselor
Licensure**

<https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil>



Key Issues 2023: Military Spouse Licensure Portability — DOD Criteria



- **There is a continuum of opportunities** to transfer an occupational license between states from short-term to long-term solutions.
- **The lines of effort** for this initiative focus on **enhancing state policies** to make information about licensing more **accessible** and increase the number of interstate **compacts**.



Occupational Licensure Compacts



Create a legally binding agreement between states

Similar to a contract, a compact establishes a formal, legal relationship among states to address common problems or promote a common agenda.



Promote cooperative action among states

Compacts can be leveraged for any issue where states have a need to coordinate. For example, existing compacts are used to reduce burdens for military families in transition, solve boundary disputes, manage shared natural resources, and build resilience to natural disasters



Provide a widely recognized and durable policy solution

Every state is a member of at least one compact. There are over 250 active compacts in the U.S., and on average states are members of about 25.

Source: National Center for Interstate Compacts, Council of State Governments



Occupational Licensure Compacts

- Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact: ITMC
- Cosmetology
- Massage Therapy: IMpact
- Physical Therapy: PT
- **Occupational Therapy: OT**
- Emergency Medical Services: EMS
- Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact: PSYPACT
- Counseling Compact
- **Audiology and Speech-Language-Hearing Interstate Compact: ASLP-IC**
- **Nurse Licensure: NLC**
- Advanced Practice Registered Nurse: APRN
- Physician Associates/Assistants: PA
- Dentistry/Dental Hygiene



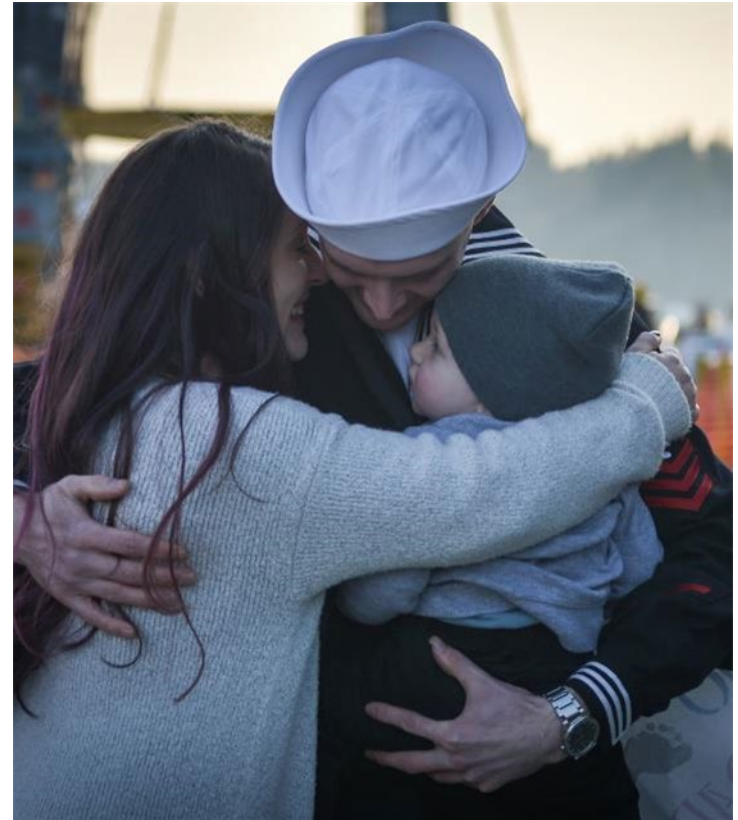
Key Issues 2023: Defining Armed Forces

- The United States Space Force, which was established on Dec. 20, 2019, was added to Title 10 United States Code.
- A consistent approach to defining members will ensure that military families are equally represented under all state laws defining “military service,” “military retiree” and “veteran.”
- **States can minimize disruptions in benefits and services by clearly defining “armed forces.”**



Opportunity 2023: Military and Veteran Anti-Discrimination Status

- To supplement protections under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, **states can add military family status as a class protected in state education, housing, public utilities and civil rights laws.**
- Military service members and their families, may encounter bias and discrimination. This stems from negative stereotypes surrounding PTSD, unfounded fears of military deployments, and other misconceptions.



DSLO: Ready to Support

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

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For additional information, visit
statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil.

Thank you for helping our military families.

