



MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

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

February 17, 2022

The Honorable Paul J. Utke
Chair, Health and Human Services Finance Committee
Minnesota Senate
St. Paul MN 55155

Chair Utke and Members of the Committee:

My name is Martin Dempsey, I serve as the Midwest Regional Liaison for the Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. Our mission is to be a resource to state policymakers as they work to address quality of life issues of service members and their families. In addition to being staff for the Pentagon, I am a combat veteran and served 24 years in the Air Force.

On behalf of military families and the Department of Defense, I am providing testimony in support of SF 2302, the multi-state nurse licensure compact.

One of the Department's current Quality of Life Key Issues is working to help enact Interstate Compacts to improve licensure options for military spouses, veterans and service members. . Easing licensure transition is especially important for our military spouses, as 68% of our service members reported that their spouse's ability to maintain a career impacts their decision to remain in the military.

Our office works closely with the National Center for Interstate Compacts, part of the Council of State Governments, to support eight occupational licensure compacts. These compacts are especially beneficial for the 53% of our military spouses that work in the Health Care Professions.

The DoD has partnered with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) to support the Nurse Licensure Compact. The Nurse Licensure Compact allows military spouses to use their state of legal residence as their home state for privilege to practice.

In addition to benefitting military spouses who are stationed in MN, joining the Nurse Licensure compact is a benefit to those military spouses who hold MN residency. By joining the Compact, MN spouses have the benefit of practicing in 34 other States when stationed away from their home State of Residence. This allows military spouses a more seamless path to maintaining their careers when changing duty stations.

Service members would also benefit from access to the Nurse Licensure Compact in MN. Many service members maintain a multi-state license allowing them to work in a Federal Facility. However, they are not able to conduct training, seamlessly support emergencies or work additional hours to maintain skills in a non-federal facility. By joining the Nurse Licensure Compact, the State of MN would benefit from military members being available to train and provide care in their communities.

SF2302 is a tremendous step forward for the State of MN to ease the burden of licensure for our military spouses, military members and Veterans.

We appreciate your consideration of this and similar policies which would support easing the burden of licensure.

In closing, we are especially grateful to Senator Nelson for authoring this legislation. Thank you for your consideration of this important policy. I stand ready for your questions.

Sincerely,

Martin Dempsey
Midwest Regional Liaison
Defense-State Liaison Office