



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

February 6, 2023

**MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS**

Honorable Senator Michael A. Wobbema
Chair, Senate Workforce Development Committee
North Dakota State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismark, ND 58505

RE: Letter of Support – SB 2205 (Psychology interjurisdictional compact)

Dear Chairman Wobbema and Honorable Committee Members:

On behalf of military families and the Department of Defense, I am writing in support of the policy changes expressed in SB 2205, a bill that address licensing issues affecting our Service members and their families. I would like to thank you for considering this issue in the 2023 session.

My name is Michelle Richart and I am an active duty military spouse and the Midwest Regional Liaison for the Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Community and Family Policy. Our mission is to be a resource to state policymakers as they work to address quality of life issues of military families.

Licensure issues for both our transitioning military members and the spouses have been a priority for the Department for several years. States are now considering licensure compacts for several occupations and we commend the State of North Dakota for its adoption of additional occupational compacts. Occupational licensure compacts provide consistent rules that allow licensed members to work in other states through “privilege to practice policies”, or to more easily transfer their license to a new state. These occupational compacts assist military members and their spouses to participate.

As our military members and their families move from state-to-state, obtaining licenses in order to obtain employment is very important. These compacts will serve to relieve one of the many stressors of a military move.

We are grateful for the tremendous effort that North Dakota has historically made to support our military members and their families and appreciate the opportunity to support the psychology interjurisdictional compact. Again, thank you for your support of this issue. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Very Respectfully,

MICHELLE RICHART
Midwest Regional Liaison
Defense-State Liaison Office