



MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

February 7, 2023

The Honorable Lori Houghton
Chair, House Committee on Health Care
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

RE: HB 86, An Act Relating to Vermont's Adoption of the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact

Dear Chairwoman Houghton and Honorable Committee Members:

On behalf of military families and the Department of Defense, I am writing to provide comment regarding the policy changes proposed in Vermont House Bill 86, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC), which addresses licensing issues affecting our service members and their families.

As liaison to the New England Regional Liaison for the United States Department of Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, I would like to thank you for considering this issue in the 2023 legislative session.

The ASLP-IC enhances opportunities of portable careers for military spouses by providing consistent rules which allow licensed members to work in other states through "privilege to practice policies", or more easily transfer their license to a new state.

Frequent moves and cumbersome licensing and certification requirements limit career options for military spouses. Enacting the ASLP-IC will serve to relieve one of the many stressors of a military move by allowing service members and military spouses to more easily maintain their profession when relocating.

By supporting the policies outlined in HB 86, the Vermont General Assembly has the chance to create a crosswalk of opportunities to those who serve this great nation. Thank you for taking the time to consider this issue. As liaison to the New England region, I stand ready to answer whatever questions you may have.

Sincerely,

MELISSA WILLETTE
New England Regional Liaison
Defense-State Liaison Office

CC: House Committee on Health Care Members
Representative Michael McCarthy
Robert E. Burke, Director, Office of Veterans Affairs
Maj. Gen. Gregory Knight, the Adjutant General of Vermont