



MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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

April 14, 2023

Senator Virginia Lyons
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

RE: Social Work Licensure Compact

Dear Chairwoman Lyons and Honorable Committee Members:

I write on behalf of the Department of Defense to request your consideration of adding Social Work Compact policy language to Vermont House Bill 282, An Act Relating to the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact. Much like other licensing compacts the Department supports, the Social Work Compact is a best practice approach for one of DOD's ten priority key issues for personnel and readiness.

Your consideration regarding the addition of this issue in the 2023 legislative session is greatly appreciated. Military spouses, while not wearing a uniform, serve alongside our active-duty military members, and their sacrifices often go unnoticed. Most of our military families rely on two incomes to meet their financial needs, and many military spouses hold professional licenses. These professionals are disproportionately affected by state-specific licensure requirements that can cause delays and gaps in employment, especially when they are forced to relocate every few years as part of their family's service obligation.

The Social Work Licensure Compact will increase license portability for social work professionals in Vermont, support military families, and improve access to social work services for Vermont residents, while maintaining the current system of state licensure. Should you have any questions regarding this statement, please feel free to contact me at any time.

I can be reached at 703-623-2035 or melissa.j.willette3.civ@mail.mil.

Sincerely,

MELISSA WILLETTE
New England Regional Liaison
Defense-State Liaison Office

CC: Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
Robert E. Burke, Director, Office of Veterans Affairs
Maj. Gen. Gregory Knight, the Adjutant General of Vermont