



MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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

February 27, 2023

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

RE: HB 282, An Act Relating to the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact

Dear Chairwoman Houghton and Honorable Committee Members:

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

As liaison to the New England Region for the United States Department of Defense-State Liaison Office, I would like to thank you for considering this issue in the 2023 legislative session. 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.

Vermont continues to make great strides towards improving the quality of life of their military families. With your continued support, our service members can complete their missions, whether protecting our country overseas, or at home, knowing we are taking care of their families. Thank you for taking the time to consider this statement and please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

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: House Committee on Health Care Members
Representative Daisy Berbeco
Representative Alyssa Black

Representative Mari Cordes
Representative Leslie Goldman
Robert E. Burke, Director, Office of Veterans Affairs
Maj. Gen. Gregory Knight, the Adjutant General of Vermont