

HB 2037- Authorization to practice profession of spouse of active member of Armed Forces who transfers to Oregon

Testimony by Mark San Souci, 2 April 2013, for Oregon House Veterans Services & Emergency Preparedness Committee

Mister Chair and committee, thank you once again for the opportunity to express Department of Defense support for HB 2037 to provide for military spouse portability. My name is Mark San Souci, Department of Defense Regional Liaison for Military Families for the Northwest, working for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Family & Community Policy.

Having had the chance to come before you to discuss this issue three times previously (Sep 12, Dec 12, March 7), I would like to thank you again on behalf of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, for the opportunity to discuss professional license help for military spouses who move to Oregon as part of the military family.

We support HB 2037, including the amendments before you today.

This issue remains number two of the Department's ten key state issues addressing military family concerns; and has Administration support given their Joining Forces Initiative focusing on this issue.

As a reminder, Oregon, as of October 2012, has 933 active duty and 5,343 reserve military spouses, totaling 6,276. Most active duty spouses move every three years into and out of the state. DMDC data shows around 53% of them are employed, making it around 3,326 spouses working in Oregon. We do know that up to 34% are licensed occupations, and even if you counted only the 933 active duty spouses, approximately 317 licensed spouses a year are

**subject to moving (counting guard/reserves it would be 1130).
Therefore passing this legislation could help up to 120 active duty
military professional spouses who move every year.**

**As of today, 31 states now have enacted policies to offer the
licensing help of expediting the processing of either a temporary or
endorsed license, including the states of Arkansas, Mississippi,
South Dakota, and Wyoming so far this session, to help military
spouses secure necessary employment in their new state. At this
point this session, including Oregon, 17 more states are working on
legislation to join them.**

**In closing, we are grateful for the tremendous support Oregon
provides in support of our service members and their families,
including the veterans academic and occupational credit bill last
year and the others before that. Thank you to this committee for
being a champion for us.**

**Thank you for taking up this issue in this committee for
consideration this session. I stand by for any questions you may
have.**

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