

Submitter: A B  
On Behalf Of: Military families and valued school psychologist  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2596

I have been apart of the military community for over 10 years. In education for 12, and have been in the workforce for almost 20 years. I've worked closely with families, spouses, children, soldiers, community leaders, schools, and district officials. I, myself being apart of that community understand how important education and being able to contribute to your family is. It is so disheartening to achieve such accomplishments and success to yet be put on the back burner because of long processes that appear impossible. In ten years I've moved to 4 different states, still pursuing my education in each. Prolonging the length because of state and university requirements. Finally, a location to lay down roots, and embrace the success i've created. To continue to be bombarded with all these obstacles, and challenges on just switching licenses, something that seems so simple. You've done the work, you've practiced, and provide services, so why if I have to move, that be such a daunting process? As a professional, in the process of getting licensed in Oregon and transferring my license from another state puts the accepted job offer for the 25-26 school year in jeopardy of starting. Furthermore, puts a potential financial strain on my entire family, when we've left our whole lives in another state to move here to pursue better job opportunities. I have obtained a position for the 25-26 school year. However, if I can't get my license in oregon approved in time, I can't start the position I have accepted. This school year alone, I have conducted over 60 evaluations, with most being autism, and/or cultural and linguistically diverse evaluations, and the school year not over yet. Without my licensing being approved in time, even have done all this hard work, that could look like over 60 kids that would miss out on a evaluation due to the school psychologist shortage nationwide, but espescially throughout Oregon. So this isn't JUST a interstate compact change for professionals. This has a MASS affect on all involved, including those who we serve. It is such a urgency for this interstate compact to be supported in Oregon. Out of anyone who can speak to the emotional, mental, and possible financial strain it's definitely from me, a person who is currently in this process and see the struggles I face. This has the potential to increase employment, increase services, create stability for those professional who have worked doing the job they love, knowing the job they are licensed to do and have been doing it, can go with them wherever they go. A few years ago this was discussed at NASP (National Association of School Psychology) as a way for military members/spouses to use their credentials elsewhere. When I moved to Oregon and saw it being introduced here I was excited because I saw how hard the ground work was to lay this foundation down and get states on board. The reality is, states ARE ON BOARD. Oregon needs to jump on board and be apart of the change, not playing catch up 5-10 years from now. The change needs to happen, now, as the ureauency

for the need of school psychologist is dramatically high. I hope you each are able to understand the impacts of your choices and who it truly affects. Thank you