



Defense-State Liaison Office 2023 Overview

Geraldine Valentino-Smith, Director



U.S. Department of Defense

**MILITARY
STATE POLICY
SOURCE**

Who We Are and What We Do

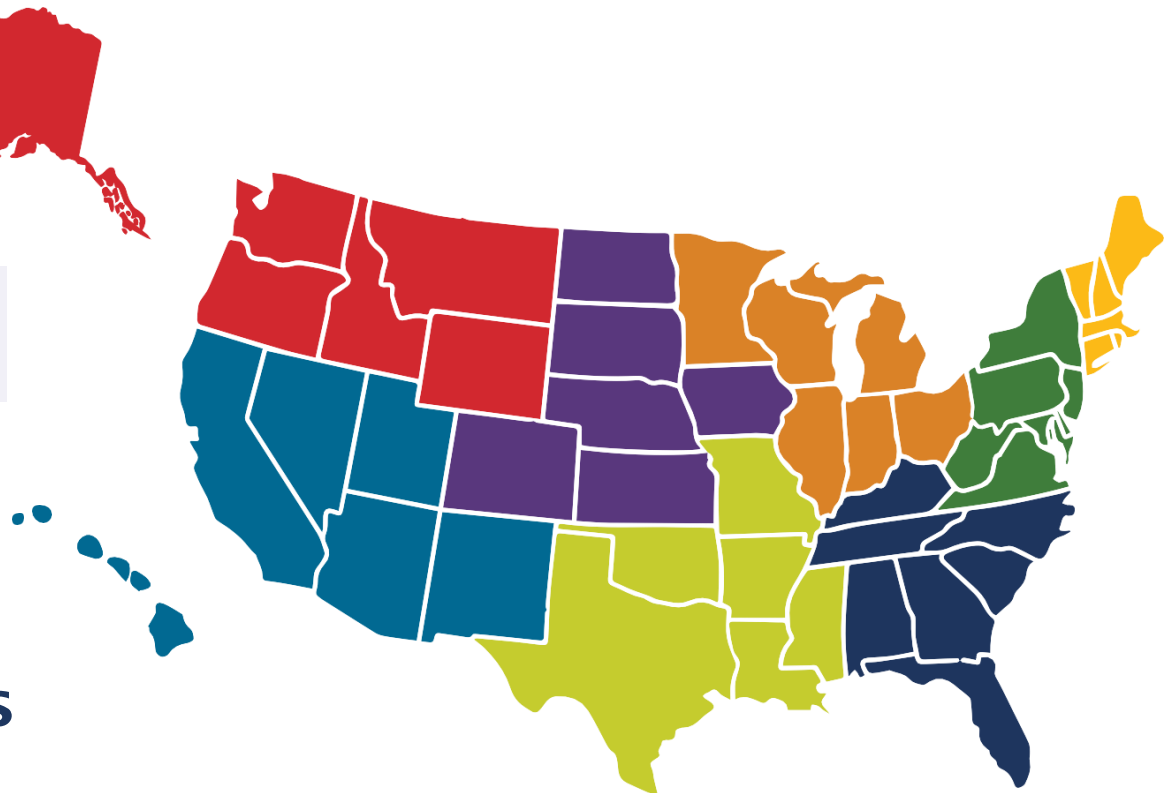
The Defense-State Liaison Office provides state policymakers with expert insight on issues affecting military families and their quality of life. This is part of the Defense Department's efforts to identify and address the most pressing needs of service members and military families.

The DSLO:

- Provides reliable information and research on DoD state policy priorities
- Meets with and educates legislative and executive branch members on DoD state policy priorities.



- Northwest Region
- Pacific Southwest Region
- Midwest Region
- South Central Region
- Great Lakes Region
- Southeast Region
- New England Region
- Mid-Atlantic Region



Meet the Regional Liaisons



Tammie Perreault
Northwest Regional Liaison
AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY



Michelle Richart
Midwest Regional Liaison
CO, IA, KS, NE, ND, SD



Shane Preston
Great Lakes Regional Liaison
IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI



Melissa Willette
New England Regional Liaison
CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT



Kelli May Douglas
Pacific Southwest Regional Liaison
AZ, CA, HI, NM, NV, UT



Jeremy Hilton
South Central Regional Liaison
AR, LA, MO, MS, OK, TX



Eric Sherman
Southeast Regional Liaison
AL, FL, GA, KY, NC, SC, TN



Christopher Arnold
Mid-Atlantic Regional Liaison
DC, DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA, VA, WV

Military Demographics

- Active - Duty Military: 1.3M members
Reserve Component: 802K
- Active-Duty Spouses: 597K
Reserve Component: 357K
- Active-Duty Children: 964K
Reserve Component: 674K
- AD Ages:
 - 45% <25 years old
 - 66% <30 years old
 - 81% <35 years old
- Active-Duty Married: 49.9%
- Active-Duty Children ages 0-5: 41%
- Live off base: 70%

*Data Source DMDC, Dec. 31, 2022

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Taking Care of Our Military Families

September 2022 DOD Memo: Taking Care of Our Service Members and Their Families

“The Department of Defense has a sacred obligation to take care of our service members and families. Doing so is a national security imperative. Our military families provide the strong foundation for our force, and we owe them our full support.”
– Lloyd J. Austin, SECDEF

September 2021 Joining Forces Report: Strengthening America’s Military Families

“The families of our service members and veterans, caregivers, and survivors ... may not wear a uniform ... but they sacrifice for us all. They give their best to the United States, and we owe them nothing but our best in return.”
– Dr. Jill Biden, FLOTUS



2023 Key Issues



Licensing Compacts



**Military Spouse
Occupational Licensure
Access**



**Purple Star Schools
Program**



**Open Enrollment
Flexibility**



**Child Abuse Identification
and Reporting**



**Concurrent Juvenile
Jurisdiction**



**Licensure Exemptions for
Military Family Child Care
Providers**



Defining Armed Forces



**Military and Family Life
Counselor Licensure
Waiver**



New State Policy Priorities for FY2024

Boards and Councils

By including members of the military community, states can ensure that unique operational requirements and military family issues are considered across pertinent policy areas.

Interpersonal Violence

states can address harmful behaviors, such as sexual assault and domestic violence, by expanding protections for victims. Enacting state policy best practices can supplement federal program efforts and changes.

Exceptional Family Education

Military families of children with special education needs experience additional delays and expenses because they relocate every two or three years. States can enact policies to streamline the processes and proceedings, ensuring timely establishment or reestablishment of special education services.

Anti-Discrimination

To supplement employment protections under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, states can add military family status as a class protected in state education, housing, public utilities and civil rights laws.



Previous Priorities Continued in FY2024

Military Family Access to Quality Family Child Care

In many cases, DOD-certified military family child care providers must also be licensed or registered by the state when simply caring for DOD children. By recognizing military family child care certification, in lieu of requiring state licensing, states can enhance access to military child care and reduce the time on waitlists.

Defining Armed Forces

Recent force structure changes require updates to ensure that states' definitions of military service align with federal law. States can minimize disruptions in benefits and services for eligible service members and dependents by clearly defining "armed forces."

Open Enrollment Flexibility

Military families are at a disadvantage when it comes to school enrollment options due to military-directed assignments. States can provide military families with improved schooling options by modifying district open enrollment policies.



Previous Priorities Continued in FY2024

Concurrent Juvenile Jurisdiction

On military installations subject to exclusive federal jurisdiction, investigation and adjudication of juvenile offenses is limited because cases may only be adjudicated in the federal system. States can adopt concurrent jurisdiction policies to ensure access to state resources and juvenile courts for appropriate adjudication options to better respond to juvenile needs.

Child Abuse ID and Reporting

Federal law requires the DOD to request state reports regarding instances of child abuse and neglect involving military family members. States can assist military Family Advocacy Programs in providing needed support by requiring child protective services to report cases to the military at the onset of their investigations.

Military Spouse Employment

Many military spouse professionals must relicense each time they transfer with their active-duty spouse. As states implement the provision of the Military Spouse Licensing Relief Act, they can help military spouses maintain professional and financial stability by promote true reciprocity through compacts and ensuring licensing agencies make their application processes accessible to military spouses.



Update on Licensure Portability Federal Law

- On Jan. 5, 2023, President Biden signed into law the Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022 (H.R. 7939).
- Section 19 intends to provide for licensure portability among all 50 states for all service members and military spouse licensed professionals, except the practice of law.



Update on Licensure Portability Federal Law

Spouse must meet the following five criteria under the law:

1. Relocate his or her residency because of military orders for military service to a location that is not in the jurisdiction of the licensing authority that issued the covered license;
2. Provide a copy of such military orders to the licensing authority in the jurisdiction in which the new residency is located;
3. Have actively used the license or certificate during the two years immediately preceding the relocation;
4. Remain in good standing with and
 - a. the licensing authority that issued the covered license; and
 - b. every other licensing authority that issued to the servicemember or the servicemember's spouse a license valid at a similar scope of practice and in the discipline applied in the jurisdiction of such licensing authority; and
5. Submit to the authority of the licensing authority in the new jurisdiction for the purposes of standards of practice, discipline, and fulfillment of any continuing education requirements.

*If these requirements are met, the covered license ***shall be considered valid*** for the duration of such military orders.



Interstate Licensing Compacts

- If the servicemember or servicemember's spouse is licensed and able to operate in multiple jurisdictions through an interstate licensure compact, and relocates to a jurisdiction that is a part of the compact, then the requirements of the compact or the law of the applicable State will apply instead of the new provision of the SCRA.
- If the same servicemember or spouse relocates to a jurisdiction outside of the compact, the requirements of the new SCRA provision will apply.
- **Compacts remain the best option for military spouse licensure portability.**



2023 Interstate Compact Update

	Enacted	Passed	Filed	Not Filed
APRN	3	0	7	46
ASLP	26	0	13	17
Cosmetology	2	0	6	48
Counseling	26	0	15	15
Dentistry	3	1	3	49
EMS	22	0	6	28
IMLC	39	0	6	11
Massage Therapy	0	0	5	51
NLC	40	0	9	7
OT	27	0	11	18
PA	1	0	5	49
PSYPACT	36	0	8	12
PT	34	0	13	9
Social Work	0	0	7	47
Teaching	5	0	14	37
TOTAL	264	1	128	444



State Assistance With Portability Law

- The Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice (DOJ) together with United States Attorneys' Offices across the country, enforce the SCRA. DOJ is expected to issue formal advice to the states in the near future.
- Servicemembers and spouses covered by this new provision can contact their local legal assistance office for further information. Office locations may be found at <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil/>.
- If servicemembers or spouses are not eligible or able to obtain military legal assistance services, they may request that the Department of Justice review their claim through www.servicemembers.gov



Working With State Policymakers to Support Military Families

The Defense-State Liaison Office stands ready to assist your efforts to improve the quality of life for military service members and their families.

Contact Your Region Liaison



For additional information, visit:
statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil

