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Legislative District 14
Montgomery County

Ways and Means Committee

Subcommittees

Early Childhood

Local Revenues



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1191: Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact
February 28, 2024**

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and esteemed members of the Ways and Means Committee, I humbly come before you today to offer testimony in favor of **House Bill 1191: Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact**. This compact, developed by the Council of State Governments, Department of Defense, and the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification, presents an innovative solution that complements our State's efforts to address teacher shortages in Maryland, while providing a direct benefit to military families and other families relocating to Maryland for new opportunities.

Licensed professionals, such as teachers, who move from state to state often struggle with the process of obtaining licenses in their new state. No group is more affected by frequent moves than military families, who are on average reassigned to a new station every 2-3 years. The time and expense associated with obtaining a new license creates an immense financial burden on these families, while impeding Maryland's efforts to recruit new teachers.

On January 5, 2023, President Biden signed the Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022, which added the "Portability of Professional Licenses of Service Members and their Spouses" section to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. This provision calls for states to ensure that servicemembers and their spouses are able to use their professional licenses and certificates in new jurisdictions when they must relocate due to military orders. **House Bill 1191** is the answer to this call by moving Maryland into the **Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact (ITMC)**.

Maryland has faced significant challenges in addressing teacher shortages, particularly in critical areas such as special education, early childhood, elementary, and single-subject secondary areas. Despite efforts to fill vacancies, from 2018 to 2021 Maryland issuance of Conditional Teacher Certificates grew 136%, indicating a persistent and growing need for qualified educators. Recent legislative changes, such as the requirement for out-of-state teachers to pass a performance assessment, may further deter qualified educators from seeking certification in Maryland.

11 states are currently part of the ITMC (Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Florida, Alabama, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and Oregon). Legislation to enact the ITMC is also pending in 8 states (Delaware, Virginia, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Iowa, California, and Washington). Given that Maryland heavily recruits among many of these states, bringing us into the ITMC is essential to ensure our licensing requirements remain competitive among our peers. Participation in the **Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact** offers a proactive solution to address Maryland's teacher shortages and promote licensure portability for educators. I urge a favorable report on **House Bill 1191**.

Bernice Mireku-North