



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

February 18, 2021

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, Committee on Health & Government Operations
House Office Building, Room 241
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Memorandum of Support – HB0736 – AN ACT concerning Interstate Licensed Professional Counselors Compact

Dear Delegate Pendergrass and Honorable Committee Members:

On behalf of military families and the Department of Defense, I am writing to express the support of the Department of Defense for the policy changes proposed in Maryland SB0571 / HB0736, the Interstate Licensed Professional Counselors Compact (LPCC), which addresses licensing issues affecting our service members and their families. I would like to thank you for considering this issue in the 2021 session.

My name is Christopher Arnold. I am the Northeast Regional Liaison for the Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. Our mission is to be a resource to state policymakers as they work to address quality of life issues of military families.

LPCC seeks to eliminate barriers to interstate professional counseling practice, improve patient access to professional counseling services, and enhance public protection through a shared interstate licensure data system.

Of additional benefit is the compact's utilization of a mutual recognition model of interstate practice, which enhances opportunities of portable careers for military spouses by providing consistent rules which allow licensed members to work in other states through "privilege to practice policies", or more easily transfer their license to a new state.

Military families move every three years on average. LPCC helps military spouses relocate and begin work without delay by reducing the amount of time and effort needed to gain authorization to practice in a new state, even as compared to expedited licensure laws for military spouses.

We appreciate the opportunity to support the policies outlined in SB0571 / HB0736 introduced this session and would like to thank Governor Hogan and Speaker Jones for their sponsorship. Joining LPCC will improve access to resources and allow military personnel and spouses to more easily maintain their certifications when relocating. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER R. ARNOLD
Northeast Region Liaison
Defense-State Liaison Office