

JOINT BASE ANDREWS TESTIMONY FOR MARYLAND BILL SB 230 – Health Occupations Temporary

Licensure

TWO MINUTES ALLOWED FOR TESTIMONY

Good Afternoon Mister Chair, Madame Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee. I am Captain Owen Caron, a trauma and emergency nurse at Joint Base Andrews. I have a unique perspective of healthcare licensing based on my experience in numerous states that includes leading a critical care medical team to Guam on 48 hours' notice to assist the island's medical organizations during this pandemic. My entire team, technicians, nurses, and doctors, were granted temporary licenses within five days of notification. Being licensed in the state where I am stationed, while still maintaining national board certifications, has an immediate and direct positive impact on my ability to increase my experience and military readiness when called upon to deploy to operational areas or support state and local community efforts during the pandemic, like we do here in Maryland

Prior arriving at Joint Base Andrews, my wife, who is a civilian Nurse Practitioner, and I attempted to obtain licenses to work in Maryland but the process proved detrimentally slow and time-consuming, which for a family in need of a dual income does not portend to a positive experience. The Maryland process, from beginning to end, took us over eight months and included numerous phone calls of getting put on hold for up to six hours only to be disconnected. We had to take personal time for multiple visits to the physical board of nursing office to try and alleviate some roadblocks of emails and phone calls. However, my wife was able get licensed in a neighboring state that has a more timely process, 14 days to be exact, so we know the process here in Maryland can be much faster. Until the full licensing process becomes more conducive to providing more timely licenses for healthcare professionals licensed in other states, Maryland would benefit from this bill's push for expedited licenses. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Military members and their spouses who are medically trained have a strong interest and drive to support the local community, but the

obstacles in Maryland's current process will, more times than not, turn well-trained individuals to seek employment through an easier and more efficient avenue.