



Defense-State Liaison Office 2023-24 Update Brief
Kelli May Douglas, Pacific Southwest Regional Liaison
MIC3 Annual Business Meeting, 8-9 November, 2023



U.S. Department of Defense

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, secretary of defense

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, First Lady of the U.S.



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.



Meet the Regional Liaisons



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



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



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



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



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



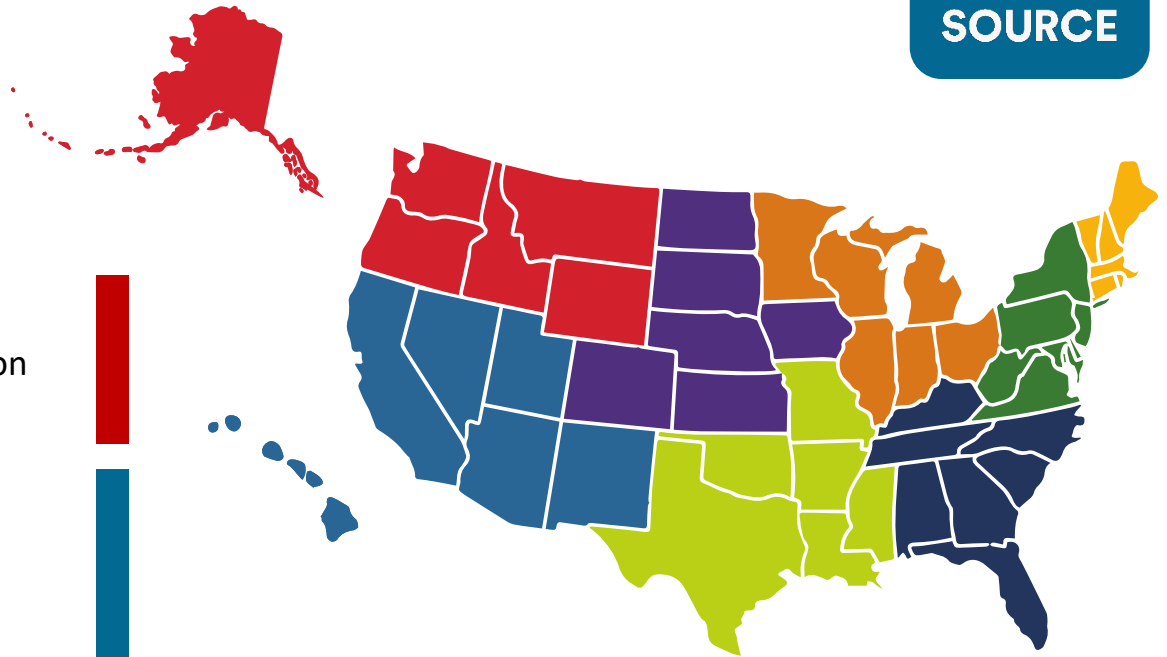
Eric Sherman
Southeast Regional Liaison
AL, FL, GA, KY, NC, SC, TN



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



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



2023 Priorities – EOY Summary

Priority	States w/Policy	Active Sponsors: Total	Active Sponsors: States	Active Bills: Total	Active Bills: States	Passed	Completed
Emeritus Priorities	-	12	3	12	3	0	13
Enhanced Military Spouse Licensure Portability	37	4	2	7	5	1	8
Military Family Anti-Discrimination Status	4	2	2	3	2	0	3
Military Spouse Occupational Licensure Access	36	2	1	2	1	0	4
Licensing Compacts	47	41	14	56	18	2	53
Purple Star Schools Program	38	1	1	2	2	0	4
Open Enrollment Flexibility	12	5	2	8	3	0	4
Child Abuse Identification and Reporting	33	2	1	2	1	0	0
Concurrent Juvenile Jurisdiction	5	4	2	3	2	0	1
Licensure Exemptions for Military Family Child Care Providers	11	0	0	0	0	0	6
Defining Armed Forces	19	4	2	4	4	1	12
Military and Family Life Counselor Licensure Waiver	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Aggregate Bill Totals (Multiple Priorities in some Bills)		75		95		4	106



EOY Summary: Occupational Licensing Interstate Compacts

Nurse Licensure Compact — 41

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact — 41

Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact — 39

Physical Therapist Compact — 36

Audiology and Speech-Language-Pathology Compact — 29

Counseling Compact — 29

Occupational Therapy Compact — 28

EMS Compact — 24

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact — 3

Physician Associates Compact — 1

Interstate Teaching Mobility Compact — 10

Cosmetology Compact — 3

Dentist and Dental Hygiene Compact — 3

Interstate Massage Compact — 1

Social Work Compact — 1

School Psychologists

Dietitians

Respiratory Therapists



State Policy Priorities for 2024



Military Family Anti-Discrimination Status



Military Spouse Employment and Economic Opportunities



Open Enrollment Flexibility



Child Abuse Identification and Reporting



Concurrent Juvenile Jurisdiction



Military Access to Quality Family Child Care



Defining Armed Forces in State Policy



Military Community Representation on State Boards and Councils



State Response to Military Interpersonal Violence



State Support for Military Families With Special Education Needs

<https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil>



Continuing: Military Access to Quality Family Child Care

In many cases, Defense Department-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. States can also support Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood-PLUS, which increases access for active-duty, National Guard and reserve families.



Continuing: Military Spouse Employment and Economic Opportunities

- Accessibility
 - Ensure that licensing agencies make their application processes accessible to military spouses
- Portability
 - Provide military spouse portability by implementing provisions of the federal Military Spouse Licensing Relief Act
- Compacts (ITMC)
 - Facilitate maximum reciprocity as military spouse teachers move across state lines



Continuing: 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.



Continuing: Defining Armed Forces in State Policy

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."



Continuing: 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 open enrollment policies.



New: Military Community Representation on State Boards and Councils

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



New: Military Family Anti-Discrimination Status

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.



New: State Support for Military Families With Special Education Needs

Highly mobile children, including military children, are more likely to experience recurring educational disruptions and challenges, particularly those who need access to special education and related services.

States can assist by:

- Streamlining processes to ensure timely establishment of comparable special education services upon relocation.
- Reducing burdens associated with due process proceedings.



2022-2023 Penn State Clearinghouse Study: Overview and Status

Evaluation of state implementation of Supportive Policies to improve Educational experiences and Achievement for K-12 Military Children (SPEAK Military Children)

- **Phase I:**
 - Purpose: conduct a comprehensive review of the current state of research literature related to the education of military-connected students, in partnership with the Defense State Liaison Office (DSLO)
 - Status: complete/ [in publication](#)
- **Phase II:**
 - Purpose: to investigate the implementation of four DSLO education-related initiatives and other policies and supports for military-connected students
 - Military Student Identifier, Purple Star Schools Program, Education Compact, Advance Enrollment
 - Phase IIa: State Data Extraction Report (Complete/in approval process)
 - Phase IIb: Interviews (Ongoing)



NDAA 2022 Sec. 579 – Status Update

- Requirement: Section 579 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 (Public Law 117-263) requires “the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the states and through the DSLO, to develop recommendations to improve the Compact. **[With regard to the Compact]** The report requires the following along with any developed recommendations”:
 - Consideration of the feasibility and advisability of the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Military Interstate Children’s Compact, **developing a letter or other memorandum** that military families may present to local educational agencies that outlines the protections afforded to military-connected children by the Military Interstate Children’s Compact; and
 - Identification of **any other actions** that may be taken by the States (acting together or separately) **to improve the Military Interstate Children’s Compact.**
- Status: Due to the timing and relevance of the ongoing Penn State SPEAK Military Child research project, DoD (through DSLO) has submitted an interim report for the Sec 579 requirement, extending the deadline of the report to August, 2024.
 - The referenced military family letter is currently in development.



Working with State Policymakers and Military Community Advocates



For additional information, visit
statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil.

DEFENSE-STATE LIAISON OFFICE

