

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Health
For HB 3039

Compiled on: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 12:06 AM

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Hearing Date: March 27, 2023 8:00 AM

Linda Seale

Self

Troup, TX

Please protect our Children

Virginia Simonson, LTC, US Army - Retired

Texas Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America

Flower Mound, TX

On behalf of the Texas Council of Chapters of the Military Officers Association of America, I ask you to favorably consider this bill and vote it out of committee as soon as possible.

One hundred and six (106) Texas counties face a shortage of Dental Health Professionals (both dentists and hygienists). HB 3039 would address that by allowing for license portability that significantly decreases the administrative burden of securing licensure in multiple states. If this bill is passed, eligible Dental Health Professionals will only have to complete a single application to receive licenses from each Compact state in which they intend to practice.

This bill will be especially helpful to the active military population. Military spouses move across state lines much more frequently than their civilian counterparts – an annual average of 14.5% for military spouses vs. 1.1% for the civilian community. According to the DoD, 19% of military spouses experience challenges maintaining their licenses. With an active interstate compact, a currently practicing military spouse would be able to maintain licensure and alleviate licensing-related downtime between jobs when the military requires an interstate move, as long as relevant states are members of the Compact.

The 12th annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey (FY 2021) released by Blue Star Families found that Military spouse employment is a top-five military life issue for nearly half of active-duty spouse respondents and for a quarter of active-duty service member respondents (25%). According to a 2022 report from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, military spouses have experienced an unwavering unemployment rate of 22%, making it one of the highest unemployed demographics in the United States. Military spouses also struggle with underemployment — 88% said the military lifestyle affects their ability to get a job at their experience and/or education level.

This bill alone will not solve military spouse unemployment issues, but it is an important way for Texas to re-emphasize our appreciation for military families with concrete action while, at the same time, improve access to dental care.

References:

<https://www.uthscsa.edu/sites/default/files/map-dentalhpsajan2020.pdf>

<https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2022-02-24/pandemic-bit-into-supply-of-dental-hygienists>

Michele Barns

Self

Austin, TX

The United States needs universal state/national licensing, consistency and compact membership for all nationally certified professions-physicians, PAs, Nurse Practitioners, PT, OT, dental hygiene, attorneys, etc. In this day and age, it is totally ridiculous that a licensed professional can practice in one state, yet not another. It should be like a drivers license. Healthcare professionals are competent in Texarkana, Texas, but not Texarkana, Arkansas? Why does Texas have to always be so far behind the other states when it comes to healthcare? The only people that suffer are the patients, especially those that have to drive miles to receive health or dental care. The Texas Medical Association, Texas Dental Association, and particularly the PHYSICIANS in the legislature, need to put the healthcare of the citizens AHEAD of their own professional turf protection. We haven't forgotten that Texas was the LAST state to be allowed to have Telemedicine, totally due to the Texas Medical Association and the physicians in the legislature suppressing the rights of the citizens to protect their own pocketbooks. Please say YES to this bill.

Elizabeth Exley

Exley Farms

JARRELL, TX

I am against this bill.