

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Licensing & Administrative Procedures
For HB 4857

Compiled on: Sunday, April 2, 2023 3:27 PM

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Hearing Date: March 29, 2023 8:00 AM

Keith Simonson, Colonel, US Army, Retired
Self, Retired US Army Officer
Flower Mound, TX

I'm writing to voice my strong support for HB 4857.

One of the purposes of this bill is to support relocating military members and their spouses by making it easier for them to rejoin the workforce after they move to Texas on military orders, if they are already licensed in another state.

Military spouses face particular barriers when looking for employment including their service members unpredictable schedule, expensive child care, and the amount of time out of the workforce due to numerous relocations. Military families are highly mobile and are reassigned to a new duty station every 2-3 years on average. This level of mobility creates barriers to employment, degrades living standards and can have long-term effects on building retirement nest-eggs.

Additionally, there is a lack of awareness among the general public and some employers about the unique demands of military life which often lead to education, skills, or labor gaps on job resumes. An extended job search can push job seekers into a corner, forcing them to accept any position, even if they are overqualified.

A DoD survey of nearly 12,000 active-duty spouses released Feb. 9, 2023, found that spouses seeking employment spend, on average, 19 weeks looking for a job and found military spouses are 2.9 times more likely to be underemployed than their peers. According to the Department of Defense, 14.5% of the military spouse population moves across state lines — compared to 1.1% for civilian spouses. As much as 34% of military spouses in the labor force are required to be fully licensed; and of those spouses, 19% experience challenges maintaining their licenses. DoD records in 2018 indicated that there were over 600,000 military spouses of active duty servicemembers and more than 75 percent were married to enlisted servicemembers. Military spouses' employment challenges affect their family's wellbeing, as many of the junior enlisted force are dependent on 2 incomes to make ends meet. Individuals should not have to choose between military service and economic security for their families

A majority of married service members report that their spouses' inability to maintain their careers greatly affects their decision about whether to remain in the military. With the military facing serious recruiting challenges, it is critical to our defense readiness to retain as many service-members as possible.

This bill is good for the Texas economy, Texas workers and members.

Jessica Dunn, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired)
Military Officers of America, Texas
Wimberley, TX

Supporting spouses in employment transitions, is supporting the entire military community network. I support this house bill.

DANIEL GUTIERREZ, Major

US Army - retired

Houston, TX

I fully endorse and support this bill. I believe it will go a long way in helping military families.

Shannon Noble

Texas Industrial Vocational Association and Cosmetology Instructors in Public Schools

Austin, TX

The Texas Industrial Vocational Association (TIVA) members are the career and technology teachers in Texas public schools, including the Cosmetology Instructors in Public Schools (CIPS). TIVA and CIPS support the creation of, and Texas' membership in, an interstate cosmetology licensure compact. Such a compact will create portability of the cosmetology license among those states which join the compact. In the highly mobile society of today, this will make moving between the states and maintaining their livelihoods possible for cosmetologists, as well as creating a uniform licensure standard for compact member states, which will protect the public. Thank you.