

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Julie VanOrden Chair, Health and Welfare Committee Idaho State Senate P.O. Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720-0081

SUBJECT: Letter of Support -Counseling Compact

Dear Chairman VanOrden:

On behalf of the military families stationed in Idaho, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide information as to our support for the Counseling Compact.

My name is Tammie Perreault and I am the Northwest Regional Liaison with the Defense-State Liaison Office (DSLO). We operate under the direction of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy.

One of the Department's current policy priorities is working with states to remove barriers military spouses face in sustaining their professional careers, despite the mobile lifestyle they are required to endure as part of their service to our country. Accordingly, we are engaged in helping state policymakers enact occupational licensure compacts.

Occupational licensure compacts provide consistent rules for licensed practitioners to work in other states. The military provisions added to most compacts, including Counseling, assist military spouses by establishing a home state to hold a license and granting them the privilege to practice in compact-member states.

We are grateful for Idaho's adoption of four licensure compacts which DoD supports: Nursing, Emergency Medical Services, Psychology, and Speech-Language Pathology.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have at <u>Tammie.L.Perreault.civ@mail.mil</u> or (571) 424-8264.

Fammie L. Perreault

Northwest Regional Liaison Defense-State Liaison Office