



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

December 3, 2020

Dear Legislator,

On behalf of the Department of Defense, I am writing in support of the Occupational Therapy Interstate Compact (OT Compact), which addresses licensing issues affecting our Service members and their families.

My name is Kevin Bruch and I am a 30-year Air Force veteran and the South Atlantic Regional Liaison for the Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Community and Family Policy. I would like to thank you for considering this issue in the 2021 session.

The purpose of the compact is to facilitate interstate practice of occupational therapy with the goal of improving public access to occupational therapy services while preserving the regulatory authority of states to protect public health and safety through the current system of state licensure.

Benefits of OT interstate compact include:

- Provides for the mutual recognition of other member state licenses.
- Enhances states' abilities to protect public health and safety.
- Encourages cooperation of member states in regulating multi-state OT practice.
- Supports spouses of relocating military members and their spouses.
- Enhances the exchange of licensure, investigative, and disciplinary information between member states.
- Allows a remote state to hold a provider of services with a compact privilege in that state accountable to that state's practice standards.
- Facilitates the use of telehealth technology.

As our military members and their families move from state to state, obtaining licenses in order to obtain employment is very important. These compacts will serve to relieve one of the many stressors of a military move.

In closing, let me say that we are grateful for the tremendous effort that North Carolina has historically made to support our military members and their families. We appreciate the opportunity to support the policies outlined in the OT Compact if introduced this session. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

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