

House of Representative Health and Human Services Committee

Oral Testimony on Senate Bill No. 77

Presented By: Allison Winters, VP of Professional Practices with KSHA

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Dear Chairwoman Landwehr and Members of the Committee

-As stated in my written testimony, my husband, Chad Winters served in the United States Air Force between 2003-2008. As a Primary Care Physician, he first served active duty as a Captain and then was promoted in 2005 as Major.

-We thoroughly enjoyed our time serving in the military, even as we moved every 2 years.

-While living with my husband during that 6-year period, I held four speech-language licenses all from different states.

-Often the military will give about a 30-day notice of our next station. The problem being, securing a speech-language license typically takes anywhere between 6-8 weeks, depending on the state's paperwork process.

-While I was never denied a license, I quickly learned that I was often unable to begin the interviewing process in my new state before I had an active license number. Not many employers will hire without an active license in hand.

-Employers often questioned my two to three-month gaps in employment during each move.

-Each state's requirement for gaining licensure was extremely similar. Not a single state requested anything I was not already qualified for since receiving my first speech-language license back in 1998.

- The military does try to help spouses secure new jobs with each move, but their hands are tied in our profession because it is up to the individual states to provide licensure.

-Passing Senate Bill 77 would certainly assist military spouses who are practicing SLP's. It would be one less obstacle they face in their already challenging lifestyle.

-Thank you for your time and I am now open for questions.