

Council of State Governments
October 15, 2019

As a military spouse and licensed Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP), I am in full support of the Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.

I became a licensed and certified SLP in the same month that my husband and I were married. At that time, we were living in Ohio, awaiting orders for our first active duty assignment. I vividly remember the day the Air Force Assignment Officer called, revealing our assignment. When I heard "Ellsworth Air Force Base, Rapid City, South Dakota," I immediately thought my career was in jeopardy. I did not have a license in South Dakota, and I found the cost and paperwork to be intimidating. All of these questions were confounded by the fact that we were planning to pack all our belongings and move to an unfamiliar place across the country.

Over the years, the stressful process of receiving a new assignment and obtaining a new state license has been a recurrent theme for my career. I quickly realized that maintaining my professional licenses from move to move and state to state would be challenging. The following table lists my husband's assignments and the state licenses I needed to obtain as an SLP:

Military Assignment	SLP State License Acquired/Maintained
Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio	Ohio, Indiana
Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota	South Dakota, Ohio
Lackland AFB, Texas	Texas, Ohio
Ramstein AFB, Germany	Texas
Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio	Ohio
Nellis AFB, Nevada	Nevada, Ohio, Texas, California
Maxwell AFB, Alabama	Alabama, Nevada, California, Florida
Pentagon/Joint Base Andrews	Virginia, Florida, Ohio, California

Obtaining a new state license is only one facet of the process for a military spouse as they move from assignment to assignment. Maintaining each license is also a necessary and detailed process. The consequences of not properly maintaining a state license can mean fines, suspension, or complete loss of a license. The following table lists the tasks required to manage each of my state licenses.

State License	Renewal Cycle	Continuing Education Units (CEU) required	Date of Renewal
Ohio	2 years	20 hours	December 31 of even years
Indiana	2 years	36 hours	December 31
South Dakota	2 years	20 hours	October 31
Texas	2 years	20 hours	Varies
Nevada	1 year	15 hours	Varies
California	2 years	24 hours	Last day of birthday month
Alabama	1 year	12 hours	December 31
Florida	2 years	30 hours	December 31 of odd years
Virginia	2 years	30 hours	December 31

Another factor related to state licensure is the cost of obtaining and renewing each state license. Fees can vary but average between \$100 and \$150 each renewal period. When licensure fees are combined with the cost of required continuing education (CE) seminars, conferences, and conventions, the totals can quickly add up to hundreds of additional dollars each year.

The Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact would mitigate all of the above factors for military spouses. The number of state licenses needed by military spouses would be limited by the Compact, allowing the military spouse to designate a home state. Then, the SLP would be able to move and change assignments with their spouse and have confidence that Compact member states would recognize their home state license.

The Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact was written with military spouses in mind. We have long-awaited to have our needs recognized by our professional fields and state licensure boards. I feel that the addition of the Compact would help ease the burden when attempting to stay licensed and therefore employed in our professions. I feel confident that future military spouse Audiologists and SLPs will face fewer obstacles as a result of the Compact.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lesley Edwards-Gaither".

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