



MANPOWER AND  
RESERVE AFFAIRS

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

October 5, 2023

Honorable Julie Rogers  
Chair Health Policy Committee  
Michigan House of Representatives  
124 N. Capitol Ave  
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Chair Rogers,

On behalf of the Department of Defense, I am writing in support of the policy changes expressed in HB 4504-5, and HB 4169-7. This legislation allows for all members, especially military spouses, of the Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy professions to transfer and maintain their state licensure.

Physical and Occupational Therapy licensure compacts support the Department of Defense priority to improve spouse employment and economic security for our military families. Maintaining licensure during frequent moves has been an enduring challenge for our families, often creating gaps in employment that are difficult to overcome.

Additional paperwork, lengthy wait times, and significant fees are cited as reasons that many military spouses do not relicense when they move to a new state. Occupational licensure compacts resolve these challenges while maintaining the utmost public safety protection and ensuring state control of the licensing process.

We are grateful for the tremendous effort that Michigan has made to support our military members and their families. If you have further questions, please feel free to reach to me at [shane.m.preston2.civ@mail.mil](mailto:shane.m.preston2.civ@mail.mil) or (703) 618-6924.

Respectfully,

PRESTON.SHANE.MA  
TTHEW.1291434220

Digitally signed by  
PRESTON.SHANE.MATTHEW.129143422  
0  
Date: 2023.10.04 15:27:35 -04'00'

Shane Preston  
Defense-State Liaison Office  
DoD, Military Community & Family  
Policy