



**Defense-State Liaison Office 2023 Overview**

U.S. Department of Defense

**MILITARY  
STATE POLICY  
SOURCE**

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## Who We Are and What We Do

The Defense-State Liaison Office provides state policymakers with expert insight on issues affecting military families and their quality of life. This initiative is part of the Defense Department's efforts to identify and address the most pressing needs of service members and military families.

The DSLO:

- Provides reliable information and research
- Shares knowledge of policies and process
- Offers assistance with legislation at the state level



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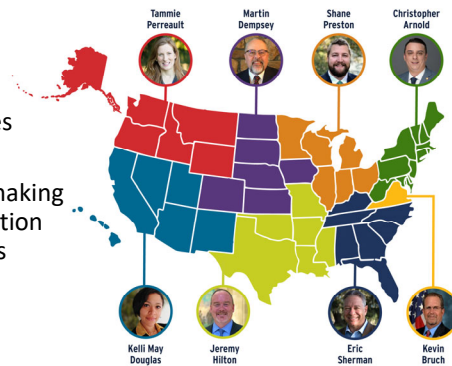


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## Role of Regional Liaisons

A staff of 10 Defense-State Liaison Office liaisons — two at the DSLO headquarters and eight others around the country — work with state policymakers to make changes to help military families by:

- Delivering personalized support throughout the legislative process
- Offering insights into military life and knowledge of how various issues impact military families
- Applying their experience in policymaking to help push through needed legislation and establish state-specific priorities
- Finding constituents to testify at committee hearings



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## Military State Policy Source Website

The DSLO's Military State Policy Source website complements the personal support provided by regional liaisons.

The website, which is available 24/7:

- Offers insight about how key issues impact military families
- Tracks the status of legislation on key issues across states
- Connects users to official data from the Defense Department
- Remains mobile friendly and up-to-date

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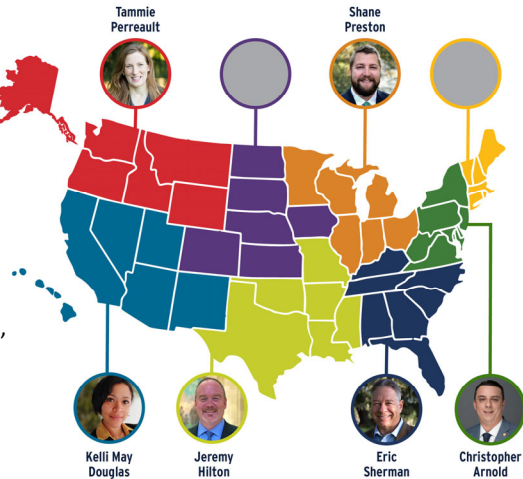
## Recent Staff Updates and Where We Are Going

### What's new in our office?

- Geraldine Valentino-Smith joined the DSLO as its new director on Oct. 17, 2022.
- Three new regional liaisons: Shane Preston joined the DSLO on Oct. 10, 2022. The other two positions will be filled soon.

Jan. 1, 2023

- Northeast will become Mid-Atlantic (Del., District of Columbia, Md., N.J., N.Y., Pa., Va., W.Va.)
- South Atlantic will become New England (Conn., Mass., Maine, N.H., R.I., Vt.)



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## Key Issues



Enhanced Military Spouse Licensure Portability



Military Spouse Occupational Licensure Access



Licensing Compacts



Purple Star Schools Program



Open Enrollment Flexibility



Child Abuse Identification and Reporting



Concurrent Juvenile Jurisdiction



Licensure Exemptions for Military Family Child Care Providers



Defining Armed Forces



Military and Family Life Counselor Licensure Waiver

<https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil>

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## Key Issues 2023: Licensure Compacts in Development

GSO

Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 116–92, Section 575) authorized the DOD to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Council of State Governments.

- Provides grants to occupations to develop occupational licensure compacts and a supporting database

Selected

Profession	Lead Organizations
Available 2023	
Teaching	National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and the Certification and Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation
Licensed Clinical Social Workers	Clinical Social Work Association, Association of Social Work Boards and the National Association of Social Workers
Cosmetology and Barbering	Coalition of 15 state boards
Dentistry/Dental Hygiene	American Dental Hygienists' Association and the American Dental Association for Dentists and Dental Hygienists
Massage Therapy	Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards
Available 2024	
Dietetic Nutrition	
School psychology	

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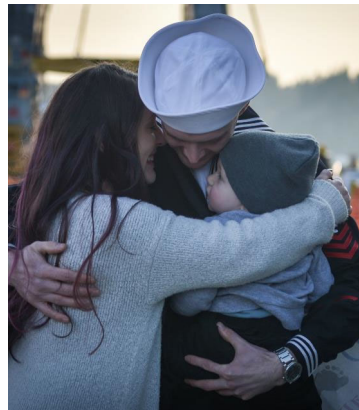
## Working With State Policymakers to Support Military Families

The Defense-State Liaison Office stands ready to assist your efforts to improve the quality of life for military service members and their families.

Contact your liaison directly



For additional information, visit [statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil](http://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil)



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## Slide 9

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**GS0** We are waiting for the info on Dietetic Nutrition and School Psychology.  
Gregory Shriver, 2022-10-26T15:18:53.445

## Additional 2023 Key Issues

**Purple Star Schools Program:** By establishing statewide Purple Star Schools programs, states can encourage local education agencies to implement practices that assist military children with transitions/deployments and also recognize military service and civic responsibility.

**Open Enrollment Flexibility:** States can provide military families with increased flexibility when it comes to school district open-enrollment policies.

**Child Abuse Identification and Reporting:** States can assist the Defense Department by requiring local jurisdictions to identify military families and develop reporting and information-sharing procedures between civilian child protective services and military child advocacy.

**Concurrent Juvenile Jurisdiction:** States' juvenile courts can adjudicate juvenile offenses when concurrent jurisdiction is established between state and federal authorities over military installations.

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## Key Issues 2023: Military and Family Life Counselor Licensure Waiver

- Military and family life counselors are DOD contractors who support active-duty, National Guard and reserve service members — regardless of activation status — as well as recent veterans and their family members, DOD expeditionary civilians and their family members, and survivors.
- The state licensure process can be a barrier to providing timely mental health support to service members and families.
- **States can help increase military community access to available mental health care by providing a licensure waiver for DOD-contracted military and family life counselors licensed in another state and providing support only to the military community.**



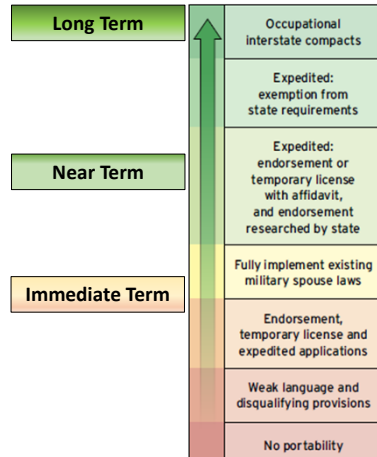
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## Key Issues 2023: Military Spouse Licensure Portability — DOD Criteria



- **There is a continuum of opportunities** to transfer an occupational license between states from short-term to long-term solutions.
- **The lines of effort** for this initiative focus on **enhancing state policies** to make information about licensing more **accessible** and increase the number of interstate **compacts**.

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## Key Issues 2023: Interstate Occupational Licensure Compacts

The DOD's gold standard for licensure reciprocity is allowing professionals to seamlessly practice across state lines.

Current compacts being considered by states:

- Advanced practice registered nurse
- Audiology/speech-language-hearing
- Counseling
- Emergency medical services
- Nurse licensure
- Physical therapy
- Psychology interjurisdictional
- Occupational therapy

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