

Governor's Military Council

Senate Standing Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Testimony on HB 2178
(Granting professional licenses to nonresident military spouses)

January 18, 2012

Dear Chairman Brungardt,

The Governor's Military Council's supports passage of HB 2178.

In June 2010 the Council held meetings with DoD officials in Washington D.C. to discuss possible ways the State of Kansas could further its efforts to become a more military friendly state. One of the suggestions given during our meeting was for Kansas to more readily accept the licensures and certifications from other states of military spouses. We believe HB 2178 meets the intent of DoD's suggested action.

Additionally, in January 2011 the President released a report entitled, "Strengthening our Military Families: Meeting America's Commitment". This report summarizes a government-wide review that results in brings together the resources of the entire Federal Government to address the needs and support required by military families now and in the future. One of the key tenets in this report is addressing the need to "reduce the burden to employment and services due to different state policies and standards." Support of military spouses and families remains a priority in the new defense strategy released earlier this month. HB 2178 addresses this priority directly.

As a result of the above, the Council urges the Committee to fully support HB 2178.

Sincerely,



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