

Fort Riley, KS rests in the heart of the Flint Hills and is the home of the 1st Infantry Division Big Red One, the oldest and most decorated division in the United States Army. I retired from the United States Army in 2010 after 22 years of service with deployments dating back to 1989 in Panama. My spouse was a Dental Hygienist licensed in the State of Kentucky. During our service she was never able to obtain her license in another State we were stationed in due to the state requirements being so restrictive. I now provide our Soldiers and spouses with employment assistance services and work to KEEP Soldiers and their families in Kansas post military. Fort Riley currently has 14,823 active duty Soldiers, 15,977 family members of which almost 3,000 are spouses, and a civilian workforce of 5,552. Fort Riley currently has a middle school, 5 elementary schools, and 7 Universities/Colleges educating our population. We have the Irwin Army Community Hospital with more than 1,000 licensed professionals who serviced more than 37,000 patients in 2020. We have hundreds of social workers, psychologists, and counseling professionals working in various directorates such as Army Community Service, Soldier Family Assistant Center, Army Substance Abuse Program, Veteran Affairs, and Soldier for Life – Transition Assistance Programs. There are Lawyers working in the Judge Advocate office and licensed paralegals. Fort Riley has hundreds of positions requiring a professional education and State recognized license to support America's premier Infantry Division. The Flint Hills Region from Abilene to Wamego and Clay Center to Herrington also require state licensed professionals to also support their local communities and Fort Riley. HB 2066 will support thousands of spouses who are currently licensed in other States fill vacancies in the 4,032 square miles in and around the Fort Riley's Big Red One Community. Expediting the professional licensing process across the State of Kansas will positively impact our workforce and enforce our motto that Fort Riley is the best post to live, train, deploy, return to and retire from in the United States Army. Thank you for your support on HB 2066.