

**Status of 2019 DoD Key Personnel and Readiness Issues
Supporting Service Members and Families
Mississippi Focus**

State policy to support identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect: State laws do not require child protective services to identify military families in cases of child abuse and neglect, or to report cases to the appropriate military authorities. Changes in State law can support both local government and the Military Departments concurrently assisting in child abuse or neglect cases involving military families. **19 states have passed legislation. MS Policy language is currently in draft for the 2019 legislative session.**

Allow Service members to retain their earned priority for receiving Medicaid home and community care waivers: Because States frequently have long waiting lists, Service members face large gaps in service every time they transfer across state lines. Allowing Service members to enroll their exceptional family member in the State designated as their legal residence (e.g., where they pay taxes/vote) can stabilize their request for support. **34 states have policy. MS Policy language is currently in draft for the 2019 legislative session.**

Advanced enrollment: Military children attend an average of 6-8 schools during their school life. Military families transferring on official military orders are usually not eligible to register in courses, programs or lotteries for charter/magnet school entry until they are physically located within district boundaries. Schools could allow preliminary registration/ enrollment, or application pending military relocation and waive proof of residence until the family has moved. **This is a new issue for 2019. MS Policy language is currently in draft for the 2019 legislative session.**

In-State tuition continuity: In many States, students with a military sponsor stationed in a State are considered in-State for tuition purposes. However, if the sponsor has a change of station out of State between receiving their letter of acceptance and start of classes the student loses this status. States can alleviate this burden by allowing a spouse/child of an active Service member assigned to duty out-of-State to be deemed an in-State resident for purposes of determining tuition/fees at all State learning institutions as long as the spouse or child resides continuously in-State. **MSU and MUW representatives verified MS Code 37-103-19 meets desired outcome. Issue complete.**

Licensing Compacts recognizing separating Service members and military spouses: An increasing number of occupations are establishing compacts that facilitate portability of licenses and opportunities to work in member states with an existing license. Having States enact laws approving these compacts further expedites licensure in these occupations for separating Service members and military spouses. **MS is a member of PTLC (Physical Therapy), REPLICA (EMT), and ENLC (Nurse) interstate compacts. Dr. Charles Miles, of the MS Medical Licensure Board, is coordinating efforts to join PSYPACT. 6 states have passed PsyPact (Psychology) legislation.**

Implementation of supportive licensure laws: Most States have established laws that support licensure requirements for transitioning Service members and active duty military spouses; however, research has shown that some licensing boards have not fulfilled the intent of these laws. State legislatures can assist by requesting occupational licensing boards report on their efforts to implement these laws. **16 states have verified implementation. Dr. Miles of the MS Medical Licensing Board is coordinating state efforts to make licensing website military friendly.**

Allow private sector employers to offer hiring preference to veterans: Private sector employers attempting to offer hiring preferences to veterans may be risking claims of discrimination from applicants lacking military experience. States may establish laws or policies that protect private sector employers from discrimination claims when offering hiring preference to veterans. **This is an emeritus issue because 37 states have passed legislation. MS Policy language is currently in draft for the 2019 legislative session.**

Facilitate Service members receiving academic credit for military education, training and experience: Separating Service members may be held back from finishing a degree. States can assist separating Service members to obtain academic credit by not having to repeat requirements completed while in the military. **This is an emeritus issue because 36 states have passed legislation. MS Policy language is currently in draft for the 2019 legislative session.**

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