



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

February 10, 2025

**MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS**

Chairman Gossage and Honorable Committee Members
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
State Capitol, Room 142-S
Topeka, KS 66612

Name: Michelle Richart
Organization: United States Department of Defense
Contact: Michelle.richart.civ@mail.mil; 703-623-1893
Position: Proponent, SB126
Type: Virtual

RE: Letter of Support – SB126 (Enacting the physician assistant licensure compact to provide interstate practice privileges for physician assistants)

Dear Chairman Gossage and Honorable Committee Members:

On behalf of military families and the Department of Defense, I am writing in support of the policy changes expressed in SB126, a bill that addresses licensing issues affecting our Service members and their families. I would like to thank you for considering this issue during the 2025 session.

My name is Michelle Richart and I am the Midwest Regional Liaison for the Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Community and Family Policy. We represent the Department and work with state leaders across the country who are concerned for troops and their families' welfare by harmonizing state and federal law and regulation on policy problems of national significance. These are identified by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments, and the National Guard Bureau as areas where states can play a crucial role.

Licensure issues for both our transitioning military members and the spouses have been a priority for the Department for several years. Occupational licensure compacts provide consistent rules that allow licensed members to work in other states through "privilege to practice policies", or to transfer their license more easily to a new state. The military provisions added to these compacts assist military members and their spouses to participate in these occupational compacts.

As our military members and their families move from state-to-state, obtaining licenses to obtain employment is very important. These compacts will serve to relieve one of the many stressors of a military move and support military families' financial and personal well-being.

We are grateful for the tremendous effort that Kansas has historically made to support our military members and their families and appreciate the opportunity to support the Physician Assistant (PA) Licensure Compact. Again, thank you for your support of this issue. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Richart", written in a cursive style.

MICHELLE RICHART
Midwest Regional Liaison
Defense-State Liaison Office