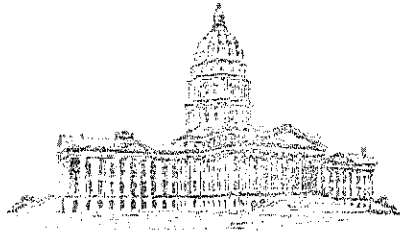


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House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Testimony on HB 2496 Nursing Licensure Compact

January 31, 2018

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members

Good afternoon, I am appearing before the Committee today in support of HB 2496. As many of you know, I have an ongoing working relationship with the military and civilian leadership at Fort Riley. One of the important issues for soldiers stationed at Fort Riley is the ability of their spouses to readily find employment within the Flint Hills region.

Since soldiers arrive at the base from all across the nation, the reciprocal licensure of professions across state borders is of utmost concern. When a military spouse is licensed to practice nursing in Texas and moves to Kansas, it is in the best interest of the spouse, soldier and local employer to have a convenient process to gain approval of a professional license in Kansas. HB 2496 accomplishes this by allowing Kansas to join a multi-state licensure compact, thus reducing regulatory barriers to interstate mobility and cross-state practice.

There is also a broader benefit of passage of this bill and joining the compact. The leaders of Kansas can never lose sight of how Kansas is viewed by the Department of Defense. A day will arrive when Congress will evaluate the need of base installations to determine if the number of military bases can be downsized to better serve the needs of a modern Army. For this reason, Kansas and Fort Riley must always be viewed as maintaining an equal or competitive edge against other states and their military bases. The passage of HB 2496 ensures Kansas is viewed in a positive light, as compared to other states, and shows Kansas is committed to accommodating the military.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. I close by asking the committee pass this important legislation.

Representative Tom Phillips