

Florida Council of Chapters *State Legislation Advocacy*

- ✓ Where we've been -- 2022 Effort
- ✓ Military Family Demographics
- ✓ Military Spousal Employment Focus
- ✓ 2023 Goals



Florida Council of Chapters 2022 State Legislation Successes

Enacted Bills that are Directly Beneficial to Military Families

HB 0559 / SB 562 Occupational Licensure of Military Spouses

CS/SB 358 / HB 1521 Professional Counselors Licensure (Interstate Compact)

SB 430 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (renewal)



Passed Unanimously in Committee and Then Stalled

SB 1370 / HB 953 Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact

Florida Military Family Demographics

Florida has the fifth largest population (by state) of active-duty Service members with 62,735

Over half are married with civilian spouses, and 23,000 of those couples include 50,000 children

DSLO research data shows that a PCS move within the last year more than doubles the odds that a civilian active-duty spouse was unemployed.

Defense-State Liaison Office (DSLO) research has found an empirical link between spousal support for a Service member to stay on active duty and actual retention outcomes. When all predictors related to education and employment were considered, ***a spouse being currently employed was significantly related to an increase in odds of spousal support to stay in the military*** when compared to being unemployed.



Military Spousal Employment – a Top Priority

SECDEF Austin Memo Sept 22 to All Top Defense Leaders

“Taking Care of Our Service Members and Families”

The Defense-State Liaison Office actively working with state policymakers providing expert insight on issues affecting military families and their quality of life to include establishing Interstate Compacts to facilitate the ability military spouses, to work across state lines.

MOAA’s 2023 Top Legislative Priorities include emergent issues such as Enhancing Military Spouse Employment

The Florida Defense Alliance (Public/Private Organization) & The Military Family Working Group identifies legislative sponsors, and with the support of the DSLO, drafted bills with the committee staffs.



FCOC 2023 State Legislative Advocacy Goals

DSLO Regional representative briefed the FDA on the new 2023 Issues

Military Family Working Group meeting with Legislators to find sponsors for:

- License Portability for Emergency Medical Services Professionals
- Interstate Compacts for Occupational Therapy Professionals, and Audiology Speech Language Pathology professionals.
- Teacher License Portability
- *Revisit* last years Psychology Professionals Interjurisdictional Compact
- Child Care Facility and Provider Licensure



FCoC to become more actively engaged with the FDA and MFWG to compliment their *MISSION*:

***Strengthening state support for military families
and veterans with a focus on education, health care, employment
and family programs***

Miscellany

The Hometown Heroes program will provide down payment and closing cost assistance to more than 50 professions including Active-duty military, when buying their first home . Eligible homebuyers will be able to receive 5%, or up to \$25,000, of their mortgage loan amount

Deployed Servicemember Tax Exemption A servicemember who was deployed outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii may receive an additional tax exemption

[Florida-Military-Friendly-Guide-2021.pdf \(floridavets.org\)](#) A 40 page compendium of information focused on the active-duty servicemember and their family.

Advance Enrollment enacted in 2021 to allow military children access to registration and enrollment to a school district at the same time it is open to the general population.

