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RESERVE AFFAIRS

## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass  
Chair, Committee on Health & Government Operations  
House Office Building, Room 241  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB0288 – An Act Concerning Audiology and Speech–Language Pathology Interstate Compact

Dear Delegate Pendergrass and Honorable Committee Members:

On behalf of military families and the Department of Defense, I am writing to provide comment regarding the policy changes proposed in Maryland HB0288 / SB0183, the Audiology and Speech–Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC), which addresses licensing issues affecting our service members and their families. I would like to thank you for considering this issue in the 2021 session.

My name is Christopher Arnold. I am the Northeast 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. Our mission is to be a resource to state policymakers as they work to address quality of life issues of military families.

The ASLP-IC enhances opportunities of portable careers for military spouses by providing consistent rules which allow licensed members to work in other states through “privilege to practice policies”, or more easily transfer their license to a new state.

Frequent moves and cumbersome licensing and certification requirements limit career options for military spouses. Enacting the ASLP-IC will serve to relieve one of the many stressors of a military move by allowing service members and military spouses to more easily maintain their profession when relocating.

We appreciate the opportunity to support the policies outlined in the ASLP-IC introduced this session. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

**CHRISTOPHER R. ARNOLD**

Northeast Region Liaison  
Defense-State Liaison Office

CC: Members of the Maryland House Health & Government Operations Committee  
Delegate Nick Charles  
Senator Ron Young  
Senator Jim Rosapepe