



**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**  
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MANPOWER AND  
RESERVE AFFAIRS

February 27, 2020

The Honorable Senator Steven M. Glazer  
Chair, Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development  
1020 N Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

**SUBJ: SB 1054 - PHYSICAL THERAPY LICENSURE COMPACT**

Chair Glazer and Members of the committee:

On behalf of military families and the Department of Defense (DoD), I am writing to express support for the policy addressed within SB 1054, as introduced. SB 1054 seeks to enact the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact, under which each member state is required to grant a compact privilege, as defined, to a physical therapist holding a license in another member state if specified conditions are satisfied.

Licensure issues for both our transitioning military members and their spouses have been a priority for the Department for several years. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of married service members reported that their spouse's ability to maintain a career impacts their decision to remain in the military and seventy-seven percent (77%) of military spouses report they want or need to work. As our military members and their families move from state to state, the ability for them to quickly gain employment and progress on their chosen career paths is very important.

Our office is working to assist states in approving five occupational licensure compacts in 2020, to include the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact (PTLC). These occupational licensure compacts provide consistent rules that allow licensed members to work in other states through "privilege to practice" policies or to more easily transfer their license to a new state. Twenty-nine states have already enacted this legislation and seven additional states, to include California, have introduced legislation to join the PTLC.

In addition to providing improved career portability for military spouses, the PTLC also offers the following benefits:

- Improved continuity of care
- Improved access to physical therapy providers
- Increased choice of physical therapy providers
- Facilitation of alternate delivery methods (Telehealth)
  - Simplifies/speeds up the current process
  - Addresses portability & barriers to access
  - Practice of physical therapy occurs in the state where the patient/client is located at the time of the patient/client encounter

In closing, let me say that DoD is very appreciative of California's ongoing commitment and efforts to support our military members and their families, especially concerning licensure and career portability for military spouses. We appreciate the opportunity to support the policy reflected in SB 1054. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelli May Douglas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kelli May Douglas  
Southwest Regional Liaison  
Defense-State Liaison Office  
ODASD, Military Community & Family Policy  
571-265-0075

Cc: Senator John Moorlach