

April 27, 2016



William A. Hatherill
Chief Executive Officer
Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy
124 West Street South #300
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Hatherill:

The National Military Family Association applauds the efforts of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT), and their partners, the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) and the Council of State Governments, on the development and introduction of the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact (PTLC). **We strongly support the adoption and passage of the PTLC in all fifty states and the District of Columbia.**

While military spouses as a group are more educated than their civilian counterparts and many are actively pursuing careers, they often struggle to find work.¹ This is due in large part to the challenges of military life, including frequent military-ordered moves. The average military spouse will move six to nine times over the course of his or her service member's career. Many military spouses respond to this reality by seeking out portable careers in the health care field such as physical therapy. However, these portable careers often are accompanied by a new obstacle: the need to obtain and renew a state-issued license or certification. More than half of military spouses work in a career field that requires licensure or certification and more than 72% of those licenses must be reissued upon every government-ordered move to a new state.² The PTLC will greatly assist military spouses pursuing physical therapy careers by reducing licensure barriers while also improving access to physical therapy services and maintaining a high level of public protection.

The PTLC eases the process of obtaining a new state license, allowing military spouses to integrate into their new community and become employed right away. We appreciate your support of military families. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Katie Savant, Government Relations Issue Strategist at ksavant@militaryfamily.org or 703.931.6632.

The National Military Family Association is the leading nonprofit dedicated to serving the families who stand behind the uniform. Since 1969, NMFA has worked to strengthen and protect millions of families through its advocacy and programs. We provide spouse scholarships, camps for military kids, and retreats for families reconnecting after deployment and for the families of the wounded, ill, or injured. NMFA serves the families of the currently serving, retired, wounded, or fallen members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Sincerely,

Joyce Wessel Raezer, Executive Director

¹ RAND (2015), *Evaluation of the Military Spouse Employment Partnership*. Retrieved from: http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1349.html

² Military Spouse Employment Survey, <http://vets.syr.edu/research/research-highlights/milspouse-survey/>