



For God and Country

Department of Connecticut

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Support for Proposed H.B. No. 6680

As the Department Adjutant (chief administrative officer) for The American Legion Department of Connecticut, I represent over 28,000 veterans, many of whom served long military careers and experienced first hand the penalty of having a spouse have to quit a job in order to relocate the family.

Frequent moves required of military families add unique financial pressures, as spouses routinely lose income during such moves. Statutes and/or policies of many states view a spouse leaving a job due to a military move as a "voluntary" separation when, in fact, they have no choice in the matter.

Granting eligibility to working spouses in transition provides a much-needed financial bridge for military families during mandatory moves, and supports spouses while they seek suitable employment. Unemployment compensation will also allow spouses to obtain necessary new licensing and credentials. If structured properly, states can offer eligibility without economically penalizing the individual employer who lost the working spouse to the move.

We fully support the passage of this bill and the estimated 3,685 military spouses currently in Connecticut will be most appreciative.

Everett G. Shepard III
Department Adjutant
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