



MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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Colorado Legislature
Senate Military & Veterans Affairs Committee

Chairman Coleman

Remarks of
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Midwest Region Liaison
United States Department of Defense-State Liaison Office

Support of: HB25-1083 Vehicle Transactions for Deployed Family Members

Testimony

Chairman Coleman, members of the Senate Military & Veterans Affairs Committee, I am honored to appear today to advocate for a crucial initiative to support our men and women serving in the Department of Defense and their families.

My name is Michelle Richart and I am the Midwest Region Liaison at the United States Department of Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. We represent the Department and establish relationships with state leaders across the country who are concerned for troops and their families' welfare by harmonizing state and federal law and regulation on policy problems of national significance. These are identified by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the secretaries of the military departments, and the chief of the National Guard Bureau as areas where states can play a crucial role.

The men and women of our Armed Forces make tremendous sacrifices to protect our nation. Deployments, relocations, and overseas duty assignments are an inherent part of military life. These transitions often bring about challenges for service members and their families, impacting various aspects of their lives, including the maintenance of essential documents such as drivers' licenses, identification cards, and vehicle registrations.

This proposal enables the automatic extension of driver licenses for military family members who are stationed outside of the State of Colorado. This initiative aims to enhance administrative ease during transitions to another state and provide continuous coverage while serving in overseas duty assignments. Further, it takes a commonsense approach and extends the existing law for military service members to their families who are commonly stationed outside of the state alongside their service member.

Not only does this policy ensure licenses remain valid when military families are stationed out of state or overseas, but it also allows service members to focus on their mission, leading to enhanced overall readiness and effectiveness of our Armed Forces. This proposed policy extends support to military families, easing their transition process and allowing them to maintain necessary documents with minimal disruptions.

Policies like remote renewal and automatic extensions of drivers' licenses, identification cards, and vehicle registrations for service members and their families are a crucial step towards supporting those who sacrifice so much for our country. This initiative aligns with the recommendations of the Department of Defense, promotes administrative efficiency, and contributes to the overall readiness of our Armed Forces.

In closing, let me say that we are grateful for the tremendous effort that Colorado has historically given in supporting our service members and their families. On behalf of the Department of Defense, we respectfully request your support of the policy changes expressed in HB1083.

Sincerely,

Michelle Richart

MICHELLE RICHART
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Defense-State Liaison Office