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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

February 3, 2025

Colorado Legislature
House State, Civic, Military & Veterans Affairs Committee

Chairperson Willford

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

Testimony

Support of: HB25-1083, Vehicle Transactions for Deployed Military Families

Chairperson Willford, Vice Chairman Clifford, and honorable members of the House State, Civic, Military & Veterans Affairs Committee, the Department of Defense is grateful for the opportunity to support the policies reflected in HB25-1083 related to the virtual extension of driver's licenses for Colorado military dependent family members, including spouses, that are stationed outside of the State. 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.

This extension policy works in tandem with the existing Colorado policies related to remote renewal of driver licenses and provides a stop-gap measure for military family members who are stationed outside of the state, either in another state or overseas. This stop gap measure is especially crucial in overseas assignments where mail is often delayed.

A virtual extension policy already exists for service members and this common-sense policy extends similar expiration protections to their family members who typically are on orders accompanying their service member. Policies that facilitate virtual and remote extensions and renewals of essential documents including drivers' licenses, identification cards, and vehicle registrations for active and activated service members and their families enhance administrative ease during transitions among states and provide continuous coverage while serving on overseas duty assignments.

By allowing for virtual and remote extensions and renewals of these essential documents, Colorado can help contribute to a seamless transition process for military personnel and their families. This also supports our service members and ensures they can focus on their duties without unnecessary administrative challenges. In providing continuity of coverage, administrative ease, and family support, this policy supports the readiness and resiliency of our Armed Forces.

In closing, the Department of Defense is grateful for the tremendous efforts that Colorado has historically given in supporting our service members and their families. Thank you to Representative Hamrick and Representative Bradfield for sponsoring this bill and thank you to the Committee for the opportunity to provide comments in support of this policy proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Richart".

Michelle Richart
Midwest Region Liaison
Defense-State Liaison Office