



**Legislative Alert #113-11: SUPPORT H.R. 1620 & S. 759, Military Spouse
Job Continuity Act of 2013**
MILITARY

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Issue Background: One of the challenges that many military families face is relocation as part of their spouses service. From 2008 to 2009, 1.1 million active duty service members in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps received Change of Station orders. Military spouses often face adversity as they must change jobs to relocate. Military spouses suffer from a 26% unemployment rate, compared to 7.7% for the US population (as of February 2013). This is largely due to the fact that military spouses need to relocate, sometimes frequently as part of Change of Station orders. As military spouses accompany their families, they face the obstacle of looking for work again and as a part of the process, having to apply for a professional license or renewing an existing one. Since many professional licenses do not transfer across jurisdictions, many military spouses must make an additional investment to seek employment in their field.

Action Required: Contact your Representatives and Senators and urge them to support and cosponsor H.R. 1620, introduced by Representative Matt Cartwright (D-PA-17), and S. 759, introduced by Senator Bob Casey (D-PA), the Military Spouse Job Continuity Act of 2013, which would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for amounts paid by a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces for a new State license or certification required by reason of a permanent change in the duty station of such member to another State.

Details (To Be Put Into Letter):

Currently, as it exists in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, military spouses are not eligible for tax credits toward either new professional licenses or renewal of licenses as a result of relocation. According to the Department of Defense (DOD), 85% of military spouses wish to work and there is currently a 26% unemployment rate amongst military spouses. With complications amongst military families relocating, on average 14% more than their civilian counterparts, legislation is needed to help encourage and preserve employment among military spouses, especially in this tough economic environment.

H.R. 1620 and S. 759 are outstanding bills that would encourage and preserve employment of military spouses by providing a tax credit for professional license renewal and acquisition. As relocation often results in military spouses having to move or leave their job, this bill would provide a tax credit of up to \$500 when military families move across state lines and have to transfer or

renew professional licenses. The tax credit is applicable to a range of fields where military spouses often work, such as, child care, nursing and health services. The legislation has the potential to make a difference in military spouses' lives by making them active, employed members of their community as well as keeping our spouse population professionally competitive.

Take Action: Click the "Take Action" link at the top of the Alert to immediately email and/or write to your Senators and Representatives. This is the quickest and most effective method of expressing your views to Congress. You can also write and/or e-mail the 'Details' section or edit as you desire for a more personalized communication . Also, contact friends and family and urge them to use the Contact Congress feature on AUSN's website as well. Please direct any questions concerning this issue to our Director of Legislation, Anthony Wallis, at 703-548-5800 or at Anthony.Wallis@ausn.org.