



INTERSTATE TEACHING MOBILITY COMPACT

Hello, my name is [Insert Name and organization]. I am testifying in support of [Insert Bill Number]. I would like to express my appreciation for your consideration of the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact, the ITMC. This measure is an initiative of the Department of Defense, The Council of State Governments, and National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification.

The ITMC is an occupational licensing compact which will help alleviate barriers that teachers face when relocating or seeking employment in a new state. To be eligible, a license must require a bachelor's degree and completion of a state-approved program for teacher licensure such as teacher preparation program at a college or university. Further, for a license to be eligible under the compact their license must be unencumbered (i.e., not restricted, probationary, provisional, substitute or temporary.) Teachers holding a compact eligible license can apply for licensure in another member state and receive the closest equivalent license without submitting additional materials, taking state-specific exams, or completing additional coursework.

The ITMC preserves the regulatory authority of each compact member state to protect public health and safety through the existing state regulatory structure. Unlike national licensure initiatives that supersede state regulatory authority, interstate occupational licensure compacts allow a member state to continue to determine the requirements for licensure in that state.

We do not anticipate substantial additional costs for states participating in the Compact. There may be costs associated with the attendance of your state's chosen Commissioner to the annual in-person ITMC Compact Commission meeting once the Compact is enacted in ten states.

The ITMC has many benefits for [State]:

1. Preserving the existing state-based licensure system;
2. Creating an alternative path to licensure for teachers relocating to a new state;
3. Improving communication between states:
 1. Supporting information sharing between compact member states
 2. Ensuring that all adverse actions and disciplinary sanctions are reported regularly to the Commission and shared with member states;
 3. Providing a venue for joint problem solving and discussion.
4. Requiring criminal background checks;
5. Improving licensure portability for teachers;
6. Improving mobility for military spouses;

According to the Department of Defense, Military families move every three years on average. The Compact helps military spouses relocate and begin work without delay by reducing the amount of time and effort needed to gain authorization to teach in a new state. As a member of the Compact, [State] may become a more attractive option to call home for a military family with a teacher: military spouses will have peace of mind that with [State] as their home state, they will always be able to move to another ITMC member state without encountering licensure barriers.

Overall, the ITMC will support military families and increase license portability for teachers based in [State], while maintaining the current system of state licensure. Additionally, by ensuring the sharing of investigative and disciplinary information among member states, the ITMC will allow member state regulatory entities to better protect the public.