

The **Defense-State Liaison Office (DSLO)**

works with state policymakers to improve military family readiness, economic well-being, and quality of life, particularly related to issues where military service puts families at a disadvantage compared to their civilian counterparts. Many issues impacting the well-being of service members and their families are best addressed by state governments.

The DSLO has eight regional liaisons who live and work in regions of the United States overseeing state and territorial relations and interstate policy for the Office of the Secretary of Defense. The liaisons assist state policymakers by providing educational information, identifying and sharing best practices, and delivering testimony in support of sponsored initiatives.



BOTTOM LINE

In 2004, the undersecretary of defense for Personnel and Readiness established the DSLO to educate policymakers on unintended barriers created by state policies and other issues important to military families. The DSLO is a key partner for defense communities and has assisted state policymakers to enact at least 1,275 bills since 2012, covering occupational licensure, employment protection, consumer protection, family law, childcare, child protection, voting, education, health care, and state judicial systems.

DSLO 2025 STATE POLICY PRIORITIES

Each year, the DSLO focuses on key Department of Defense (DOD) priorities. DOD's state policy priorities illustrate efforts that states can make to advance recruitment and retention, and to attract the next generation of soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen, and guardians. For each priority, the Military State Policy Source website provides background information, official Department of Defense data and status updates on relevant information across states.

THE 2025 PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

- **Access to Quality Child Care**
- **Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting**
- **Concurrent Juvenile Jurisdiction**
- **Occupational Licensure Interstate Compacts**
- **Military Community Representation on State Boards and Councils**
- **Defining Armed Forces in State Policy**
- **Discrimination Protection for Military Families**
- **Open Enrollment Flexibility**
- **State Support of Military Families with Special Educational Needs**
- **State Response to Military Interpersonal Violence**
- **Military Spouse Employment and Economic Opportunities**
- **Remote Driver's License and Vehicle Registration Renewal**

Click [here](#) for more information on the DSLO priorities and state legislation



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