

January 11, 2012

House of Delegates
American Bar Association
321 N. Clark Street
Chicago, IL 90654

Dear Member of the House of Delegates:

The National Military Family Association is the only national organization whose sole focus is the military family and whose goal is to influence the development and implementation of policies that will improve the lives of the families of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. For more than 40 years, our staff and volunteers, comprised mostly of military family members, have built a reputation for being the leading experts on military family issues.

Our Association has long advocated for portable career opportunities for military spouses. Our Association supports the American Bar Association Committee on Women in the Profession Resolution and Report on Military Spouse Attorneys. Military spouses are more educated than their civilian counterparts and are actively pursuing careers. Demographic reports of military spouses show that 85% of military spouses need or want a career¹, 84% of military spouses have some college education, 25% of military spouses have a Bachelor's degree, and 10% of military spouses have an advanced degree.² Yet, even with a portable career, many military spouses experience license and credential challenges when they move with their service member from one location to the next.

The National Military Family Association applauds the efforts of the Military Spouse JD Network and is pleased the House of Delegates is considering a resolution that will help military spouses become work-ready when they enter your state. With a mobile lifestyle and high-operation tempo, it is difficult for military spouses to have each state-required prerequisite for employment within a particular career field. Your consideration of this resolution will permit military spouses to start working as soon as possible after they move.

Military families want to fully integrate into their new community and you can show support for military families by considering alternative licensing arrangements which will help military spouses become employed. We appreciate your support of military families. Should you have any questions, our contact is Katie Savant, Government Relations Deputy Director at KSavant@MilitaryFamily.org or 703-931-6632.

¹ Military Family Life Project 2010

² Defense Manpower Data Center, 2008 Survey of Active Duty Spouses. February 2009

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary T. Scott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary T. Scott
Chairman, Board of Governors