Necessary Workforce and Development: Military Spouses and Occupational Licensing

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Women In Government Leadership & Innovation Summit, November 2023

Dr. Mari Leavitt, Washington State House of Representatives Rep. Josey Garcia, Texas House of Representatives Jeremy Hilton, Defense State Liaison Office (AR, LA, MO, MS, OK, TX)

Initiatives that resonate: For Military Spouse Workforce



Military Spouse Employment Act

WA 2HSB 1009



State Compact licensures – Speech & Audiology, Mental Health, Dentist + Dental Hygienist, Nurses



Collaborate with
Private Sector Hiring
400,000 veterans



Purple Star Award Designation for School Districts WA SHB 1346



Include Veteran or Military Spouse designee on state task forces WA 2SSB5263



Implement a
Legislative
Joint Committee
on Veterans
Affairs



Expand definition of Veterans for benefits - WA HB 1001

Define Armed Forces in state policy



Military Access to Quality Childcare



Building trades journey level certifications of competency WA ESSB5320



Property Tax Exemptions and Expansions

Necessary Workforce – Military Spouses



Legislators can build trust and inspire change



Engage stakeholders to participate in dialogue with military spouses



Shape public policy including regulations and legislation to support spouse transition, professionalism and family



Include private, public and philanthropic sectors to collaborate on policy objectives sustainability, and community resilience



Advise the legislature on economic and lifestyle benefits



Partner to build new capabilities and businesses for growth and competitive advantage