Executive Issues

• We work with states on issues important to service members and their families
• 2012 was a very successful year: 84 statutes enacted across the 9 issues requiring legislation
• 2013 may be an even better year: 173 bills so far in 46 states with 48 having been signed into law.

Discussion

• Quick overview/status of 2013 issues
✓ Thank-you for what you have done (and are doing)
Legislative Trends

2012 v. 2013 Legislative Activity

- Active Sponsors 2012
- Active Bills 2012
- Enacted Bills 2012
- Active Sponsors 2013
- Active Bills 2013
- Enacted Bills 2013

Pre-file and introduce bills
Assist legislators
Hearings
Conferences
Educate & build relationships

USA 4 Military Families Initiative
High Priority Issues (2013)

✓ Facilitate Service members receiving licensure and academic credit for military training & experience
  • White House interest: 41 states have enacted legislation for one or more of 4 components; active legislation in 25 states

✓ Facilitate military spouse transition: licensure portability & unemployment compensation eligibility
  • FLOTUS/Joining Forces interest: 35 states have enacted legislation for one or more of 3 components; active legislation in 13 states

✓ Provide authority for establishing Veteran Treatment Courts (VTCs)
  • 35 states have engaged through legislation/judicial policy; active legislation in 8 states

✓ Increase access to quality childcare for military families
  • 28 states have annual inspections; 26 states have recommended background checks; active legislation in 4 states

✓ Promote consumer protections and enforcement of the predatory lending regulation
  • 37 states provide regulators enforcement authority; active legislation in 3 states

NEW Waive required waiting time to establish residency for separating Service members so they can obtain in-state tuition rates
  • 19 states currently provide waiver; active legislation in 15 states
**Key Issues Under Development**

- **Assign an identifier for military children in education data systems**
  - 2 states known to have policy; active legislation in 4 states

- **Allow Service members to retain their earned priority for receiving Medicaid home and community care waivers**
  - Propose military families request through state of legal residence; no legislation to date

- **Create state-wide MoUs between the DoD and the state child welfare agency to standardize relationships among local courts, agencies and military communities**
  - Under development; initiate with state agencies starting in the summer
Key Issues Nearing Completion

✓ Improve absentee voting for military members and their families
  • 8 components to the initiative; higher acceptance of MOVE Act requirements – 46 states send blank ballots 45 days before federal/state elections; still need for acceptance of other initiatives

✓ Minimize school disruption for military children during transition and deployment (through the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children)
  • 45 states adopted the Compact; AR & ID adopted in 2013; MT & NY with active legislation

✓ Ensure deployment separation does not determine child custody decisions
  • 6 components; 47 states have approved at least 1 component; 41 states have approved “not sole reason” language; 32 states approved extending visitation rights; active bills in 6 states

✓ Comport state laws with DoD rules on disposition of human remains
  • 39 states have approved provision; active bills in 6 states
Our goal is to partner with states to help our members and their families!

www.USA4MilitaryFamilies.dod.mil