



Key Message

The unique needs of military families may go unheard without representation on state-level advisory bodies focused on the defense community. States can establish statewide military defense-focused councils that consider military family readiness and dedicate one or more seats to members of the military community.

Discussion Points

1. Governors often establish state boards and councils through appointments or executive orders, enabling them to provide recommendations on significant issues affecting military communities and families.
2. Governors and policymakers rely on state boards and councils to tackle critical issues - making dedicated military community representation on these bodies essential.
3. A statewide military affairs council should prioritize military family readiness as a standing agenda item, with a focus on identifying challenges faced by military families.
4. A statewide military affairs council with dedicated seats for military community members provides a unified voice, streamlines recommendations and enhances policymakers' understanding of military family readiness challenges.
5. Dedicated seats for military community members ensure a deep understanding of their unique needs, supporting operational readiness, family well-being and economic security.



Incorporating a military perspective into statewide defense councils can enhance community-level support for military families, increase family readiness and improve military retention.