

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE



Child Advocacy

www.USA4MilitaryFamilies.dod.mil

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Issue/Status

- **KEY MESSAGE:** State statute directing the collection of military affiliation as part of child welfare and neglect case files, and sharing pertinent case file information with the appropriate military authorities, can provide consistency and complement the statutory responsibility of the Department of Defense. This is a win-win for the state and military child welfare systems and military families we serve.
- States have the responsibility and authority to address child welfare regarding all children residing in their state to include the authority to remove children from their families due to maltreatment.
- Establishing state statute requiring (1) child welfare case workers to ask clients if they are associated with the military, (2) providing them the authority to share this information with the appropriate military authorities facilitates a more consistent and authoritative approach to collaborative oversight.
- Statutory authority would support development of more consistent MOUs allowing better coordination of local child welfare and military protective and rehabilitative services in support of military children and families.



2020 Update

Child Advocacy Status

- 2020 Workshop Update on States – 26 out of 50
 - Previously passed – AL, AR, CO, CT, DE, GA, ID, IL, IN, LA, MS, MT, NE, NJ, NM, NC, OK, OR, SC, SD, TX, VA, WA, WV and WY
 - 2020 – Passed
 - Martin MO
 - Potentials for 2020
 - Harold – PA HB 1290
 - Jim – OH HB 558
 - Kelli – CA SB 907



Discussion

- **Methods of success in 2020?**
- **Way ahead in 2021 – Roadblocks in your states? What is holding us back?**