



T H E M I L I T A R Y C O A L I T I O N

201 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 838-8143

April 5, 2018

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Chair, Education and Workforce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Scott
Ranking Member, Education and Workforce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chair, Armed Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member, Armed Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Foxx and Thornberry and Ranking Members Scott and Smith:

The Military Coalition, a consortium of uniformed services and veterans associations representing more than 5.5 million current and former service members and their families and survivors, writes to express our opposition to H.R. 5199, *The Education Savings Accounts for Military Families Act*. This legislation would divert funding from Impact Aid in order to provide a voucher for military families living in selected school districts.

The vast majority of the Nation's nearly 600,000 school-age military children attend public schools in their local civilian communities. Impact Aid is a vital revenue source for many of the schools serving military families, helping to offset lost property tax revenue when a district includes nontaxable federal land such as a military installation. Using Impact Aid dollars to fund Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) for military-connected students would be financially devastating for many school districts, critically compromising the quality of the education they could provide to military children and their civilian classmates.

Additionally, we note that relatively few military families would be eligible for an ESA under the legislation – and among those that would be eligible, the majority would receive ESA's of only \$2500. No children of service members in the National Guard or Reserves would be eligible. It is counterproductive to defund Impact Aid, a successful program that has long enjoyed bipartisan support, in order to provide a benefit of questionable value to a minority of military students.

Military families place a high value on the quality of their children's education. We urge you not to reduce funding to a program critical to ensuring military children receive the best possible education.

Sincerely,
The Military Coalition
(Signatures enclosed)

Janet Spina
Air Force Association

[Signature]
Air Force Sergeants Association

E. J. Sinclair
Army Aviation Association of America

[Signature]
AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals

Carl R. Ham
Association of the United States Army

[Signature]
Association of the United States Navy

James T. Currie
Commissioned Officers Assn. of the US Public Health Service, Inc

Carel Setteducato
CWOA, US Coast Guard

[Signature]
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the US

Thomas Lee
Fleet Reserve Association

Harriet Boyden
Gold Star Wives of America

[Signature]
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America

Norman Rosenfeld
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

[Signature]
Marine Corps League

Dana T. Atkins
Military Officers Association of America

Neil Van Es
Military Order of the Purple Heart

Joyce Wessel Rager
National Military Family Association

Michael P. Hyatt
Naval Enlisted Reserve Assn.

[Signature]
Non Commissioned Officers Assn. of the United States of America

Lynne W.
Service Women's Action Network

Gregory B. Conway
The Military Chaplains Assn. of the USA

Diantha Lark Holloman
The Retired Enlisted Assn.

Bonnie Cross
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors

Ruby Reid
USCG Chief Petty Officers Assn.

Jack Roth
US Army Warrant Officers Assn.

Richard F. Weibman
Vietnam Veterans of America

Roni Bardorf
Wounded Warrior Project