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-connected students 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)
Air Force Association

Air Force Sergeants Association

E. F. Sinclair
Army Aviation Association of America

AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals

Center Hill
Association of the United States Army

Mr. Bill
Association of the United States Navy

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

Carol Setteducato
CWOA, US Coast Guard

M. Hanneken
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the US

Charles S. Stone
Fleet Reserve Association

Warri Bynum
Gold Star Wives of America

Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America

Norman F. Rosenkrain
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Marine Corps League

Dana T. Atkinson
Military Officers Association of America

Military Order of the Purple Heart

National Military Family Association

Naval Enlisted Reserve Assn.

Non Commissioned Officers Assn. of the United States of America

Service Women's Action Network

The Military Chaplains Assn. of the USA

The Retired Enlisted Assn.

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors

Rebecca A. Reich
USCG Chief Petty Officers Assn.

US Army Warrant Officers Assn.

Michael J. Walser
Vietnam Veterans of America

Requi Pardue
Wounded Warrior Project