



## 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)

Air Force Association  
Air Force Sergeants Association  
Army Aviation Association of America  
AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals  
Association of the United States Army  
Association of the United States Navy  
Chief Warrant & Warrant Officers Association, USCG  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.  
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States  
Fleet Reserve Association  
Gold Star Wives  
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America  
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America  
Marine Corps League  
Military Officers Association of America  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
National Military Family Association  
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association  
Non Commissioned Officers Association  
Service Women's Action Network  
The Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America  
The Retired Enlisted Association  
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors  
United States Army Warrant Officers Association  
United States Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association  
Wounded Warrior Project