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 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