



July 22, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
Room H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
Room H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
Room S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
Room S-221, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer:

The Military Coalition (TMC), representing more than 5.5 million current and former service members, veterans, and their families and survivors, encourages Congress to prioritize fully funding the Department of Education's Impact Aid in the next COVID-19 stimulus package. This important program would allow federally impacted schools to respond to challenges caused by the pandemic, and it directly supports the nearly one million military-connected children who attend our nation's public schools.

The overwhelming majority of school-aged military children attend public schools. In 1950, Congress created the Impact Aid program with the intention of supporting school districts that either lost property tax revenue streams or experienced increased costs associated with serving federally-connected students, including military children. Due to a tight budget environment, Impact Aid has not kept up with inflation and has been underfunded for decades. Our federally impacted schools are falling behind in important investments such as school infrastructure, new classroom resources, teachers, extracurricular programs, and technology.

Our military children already face unique obstacles, attending on average six to nine different schools. The COVID-19 pandemic caused many schools across our nation to close early or convert to online learning. Military families are concerned about permanent change of station moves during this time, bridging learning gaps due to the pandemic and the "summer slide," as well as maintaining special education requirements and technology support.

TMC is concerned the effects of the current pandemic, in addition to chronic state and federal underfunding, will negatively impact our children's local school districts. If federally impacted schools continue to struggle with fewer resources due to this, how can we expect them to manage the impact of the COVID-19 crisis? It is essential to provide federally impacted schools with the necessary flexible funding to address each district's unique challenges and safely reopen in the fall.

TMC has long believed that military children's education is a readiness issue for our uniformed services. Ensuring military children have access to free and appropriate education, and easing the transition between schools due to permanent change of station moves, are two of our top priorities. We thank you for your leadership on many important issues affecting our military community and we respectfully urge you to make Impact Aid a top priority.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to TMC for continued support.

Sincerely,



Jack Du Teil
President,
The Military Coalition

Air Force Association (AFA)

Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)

Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS)

Coast Guard (CWOA)

Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)

Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)

Gold Star Wives of America (GSW)

Iraq Afghanistan Veterans Association (IAVA)

Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV)

Marine Corps League (MCL)

Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America (MCA)

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

National Military Family Association (NMFA)

Reserve Officers Association (ROA)

Service Women's Action Network (SWAN)

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)

The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)

United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)

USCG Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA)

VetsFirst

Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)