

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 4, 2025

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Chair, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Christopher Coons
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair McConnell and Ranking Member Coons:

We write to request your support for Impact Aid in the Fiscal Year 2026 Defense Appropriations bill in order to assist school districts with high concentrations of military students and school districts that enroll children of military families who have severe disabilities.

Providing a high-quality education for the children of our men and women in uniform is an important military readiness issue. Our service members rely on local school districts to provide a supportive, safe, and secure learning environment for their children. Today, there are nearly 890,000 children of active-duty military personnel.

DOD Impact Aid funding for military children began in 1990 to help school districts with high concentrations of military students. To qualify, a school district must have a total enrollment of at least 20% of children of active-duty military children. Eighty-two school districts across 29 states qualify for the program based on this criterion and educate more than 170,000 children of military personnel. The funding assists with the unique challenges of educating a highly transient military child student body.

Fifty school districts also receive critical additional support for military children with severe disabilities whose cost of education is at least triple the state average. The Military Services cluster children with disabilities at certain installations with full service medical care facilities, which significantly increases the number of children requiring high-cost disability services in a select number of school districts.

Our military families give so much as they proudly defend our nation. We must do everything we can to assure them that their children are provided the best possible education programs.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our men and women in uniform and their families, and for your thoughtful consideration of this request to at least maintain the Fiscal

Year 2025 funding level for these programs in Fiscal Year 2026.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



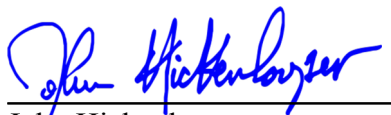
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



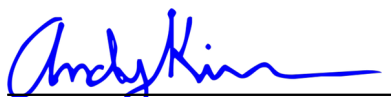
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator



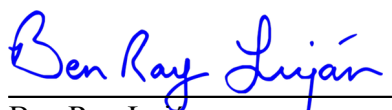
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



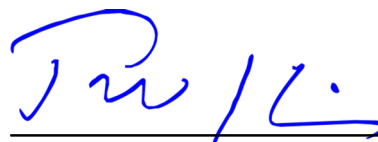
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



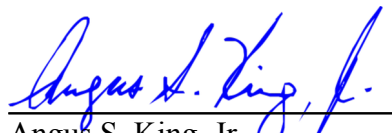
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



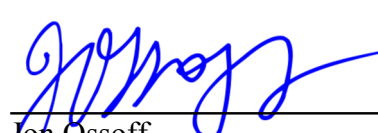
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



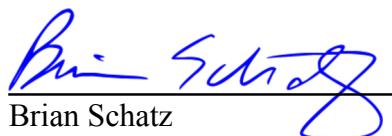
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator