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## JOINT STATEMENT ON IMPACT AID

### *Military Service Organizations Support Impact Aid*

Military families care deeply about their children's education. It is essential to them that local public schools – which enroll the vast majority of our Nation's military-connected children – receive the resources they need to provide their children with the best possible education. For this reason, **our organizations strongly support the Impact Aid program and call for its continued funding.**

Impact Aid is designed to reimburse school districts for the loss of tax revenue due to federal properties or activities within their boundary, such as military installations. School districts use this funding stream as they see fit to support their students' needs: personnel costs, professional development, academic materials, facility construction and maintenance, and much more. Without the funds received through Impact Aid, many schools would struggle to provide their students with a high-quality education, putting all children in the district at a disadvantage.

It is worth noting that public schools charged with educating military-connected children take this responsibility seriously. Across the country, public school leaders – superintendents and elected school board members – embrace the opportunity to support our military and military families. They strive to offer the appropriate staffing, programs, and services to support military-connected students and meet their unique educational and emotional needs. Impact Aid funding allows school districts to hire school counselors, provide professional development training, and establish transition centers and student-to-student welcome programs in order to support military children as they cope with challenges such as frequent moves and prolonged separation from their service member parent. Cutting Impact Aid funds would put these essential programs at risk as well.

As a country, we have a responsibility to ensure military-connected children receive a high quality education wherever their families are stationed. **Proposals to divert Impact Aid from schools that educate concentrations of military-connected students are short sighted and will only reduce opportunities for all students in these school districts.** We urge Congress to preserve Impact Aid and ensure it is fully funded.

Military Child Education Coalition  
Military Impacted Schools Association  
Military Officers Association of America  
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools  
National Military Family Association