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United States House of Representatives
Armed Services Committee
Subcommittee on Military Personnel
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

As you begin marking up the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), we strongly urge you to oppose *any* effort to create a federally funded voucher program for students with parents on active military duty, especially a voucher program that dilutes funding for the Impact Aid program reauthorized in 2015 as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Votes on this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 115th Congress.

The National Military Family Association (NMFA), National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS), and Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) oppose vouchers because they hurt the very students proponents claim to help: the overwhelming majority that attends public schools. As the executive directors of NMFA and NAFIS say in a joint op-ed in the March 5 edition of [Military Times](#), "The [voucher] proposal is a bad deal for military families — and a disaster for local public school districts charged with educating our nation's children."

Whether they're called vouchers, education savings accounts, or tuition tax credits, the effect is the same: diverting resources from public schools to private, often religious, schools ill-equipped to provide the same comprehensive services and support as public schools. Moreover, private schools are not accountable to the public and can deprive students of religious freedom, fail to protect civil rights, and provide inadequate support for students from military families dealing with issues such as parental deployments and frequent moves. Taxpayer dollars should go to public schools open to all students, not private schools that can pick and choose their students based on economic status, academic achievement, or even gender.

For all these reasons, we strongly urge you to oppose *any* voucher program for America's nearly 600,000 military-connected students.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association