



May 11, 2018

Dear House Members of the California Delegation:

We are writing on behalf of the Association of California School Administrators and the California School Boards Association (ACSA-CSBA Federal Partnership) to ask that you oppose H.R. 5199, *The Education Savings Accounts for Military Families Act*, and any other measure that would divert core federal funding from our public schools.

ACSA's more than 17,000 school leader members and CSBA's 5,000 locally elected school board members share an unwavering commitment to educational equity and excellence. The ACSA-CSBA Federal Partnership seeks to prepare students for success and to equip young people with the knowledge and skills required for college, the workforce, and civic engagement by creating a coherent system of equitable funding and continuous improvement for our schools that serve nearly 6.2 million students. Working together, our members have significantly expanded school choice options for students. However, the proposed use of the Impact Aid Program for private school vouchers will undermine our efforts.

Impact Aid provides essential funding for school districts that lose local tax revenue due to their proximity to federal tax-exempt lands, including military installations. Yet, Impact Aid Program funding fails to fully compensate these districts for their losses and the additional costs they often bear in serving military-connected students. In California, Impact Aid often augments already lean operating budgets so that districts can make investments in response to local needs, such as equipping classrooms with educational technology and providing supplementary services for students with disabilities. Diverting Impact Aid funding from California school districts will result in fewer resources for students and greater burdens on other community service providers. Impact Aid districts are financially disadvantaged, so even a small reduction in federal aid will have a disproportionately large negative effect.

The ACSA-CSBA Federal Partnership agrees with the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) statement that: "This kind of policy change could have negative ramifications, with a very limited positive impact. This issue is exceedingly complex with many variables (locality, school options, educational shortcomings, the individual needs of each child, and the high mobility of military families). There is not enough good information about where military

children don't have access to solid educational choices, free or tuition-based, to make the right impact.”

We appreciate your service on behalf of the nation’s students and look forward to continuing our work with you and your staff. If you have any questions about our concerns, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Erika K. Hoffman
Legislative Advocate
California School Boards Association
ehoffman@csba.org
(916) 669-2553



Adonai Mack
Senior Director of Federal Relations
Association of California School Administrators
amack@acsa.org
(916) 329-3821

Cc:
Senator Feinstein
Senator Harris