



October 27, 2025

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Chair
Senate Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chair
House Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 2051

Dear Chairman Wicker, Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Reed, and Ranking Member Smith:

On behalf of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) and the Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA), we write to express our deep concern about the recent reduction-in-force (RIF) of nearly all staff within the U.S. Department of Education's Impact Aid Program Office. We recognize that the Armed Services Committees do not have direct jurisdiction over the Department of Education or the Impact Aid Program. However, given your longstanding leadership on issues affecting military families, we respectfully request that you express to the Department and the Office of Management and Budget your concern about how these staffing losses threaten the timely and effective delivery of Impact Aid funds to school districts that serve military-connected children.

Approximately 70 percent of military-connected children attend local public schools, many of whom rely on Impact Aid to provide the educational services these students deserve and that the federal government has long recognized as its responsibility. The Impact Aid Program compensates school districts for the loss of local tax revenue due to the presence of federally owned land, including military installations, and for the cost of educating military-connected children.

The combined effects of the government shutdown and the RIF will have significant consequences for military-connected school districts, many of which depend on timely Impact Aid payments to meet payroll and maintain educational continuity for their students. The uncertainty facing districts at this moment not only undermines local school

operations but also risks disrupting the stability that military families depend upon when transitioning between duty stations.

In addition, the Department of Defense Impact Aid for Military Connected School Districts program relies on data and determinations produced by the Department of Education's Impact Aid Office. Disruptions to the office's operations, therefore, have downstream consequences for the Department of Defense's ability to distribute its own Impact Aid funds accurately and efficiently.

Your voices carry significant weight in ensuring that federal agencies understand the implications of these actions on our servicemembers and more importantly. their families and children. We urge you to communicate to the Department of Education and OMB the importance of restoring staffing capacity in the Impact Aid Office and ensuring the continued functioning of this critical program, particularly during this period of federal disruption.

We appreciate your longstanding commitment to supporting the educational needs of military-connected children and families, and we thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Cherise Imai
Executive Director
National Association of Federally
Impacted Schools (NAFIS)



Kyle Fairbairn
Executive Director
Military Impacted Schools Association
(MISA)