



National Military Family Association

October 17, 2025

Senator Bill Cassidy
Chairman
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC

Senator Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education
Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC

Rep. Tim Walberg
Chairman
House Committee on Education
and Workforce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Rep. Bobby Scott
Ranking Member
House Committee on Education
and Workforce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

The National Military Family Association is the leading nonprofit organization that advocates to strengthen military families and solve the unique challenges of military life. We are longtime supporters of the bipartisan, Congressionally-authorized Impact Aid program, which provides vital funding to local school districts that serve military-connected children. We are concerned by reports that virtually all the employees responsible for managing this important program have been laid off due to the recent Reduction in Force (RIF). We ask for your close oversight to ensure that local school districts continue to receive needed Impact Aid monies.

The Impact Aid program was established in 1950 to reimburse school districts for lost tax revenue and additional costs associated with the presence of federal property. Currently the program provides over \$1 billion in support annually to more than 1000 school districts across 48 states, Washington, DC and Puerto Rico. Many of those school districts are located on or near military installations and serve the children of military personnel. Impact Aid is a significant revenue source for these school districts, allowing them to pay teachers and staff, purchase supplies, maintain buildings, and ensure that military-connected children receive the high-quality education they need and deserve.

The process of applying for Impact Aid can be complicated. Because the program is not fully funded, a complex funding formula is used to determine how much aid each district receives. Schools must report on how many federally-connected students they are serving as well as what percentage of the district is federal property. The Department of Education staff who work in the Impact Aid office provide vital technical assistance, helping districts submit their applications accurately and in a timely manner. They are also responsible for the disbursement of funds. Without those employees, we question how school districts will receive the Impact Aid dollars they are owed by the federal government.

Impact Aid has long enjoyed bipartisan support. We appreciate that for decades, Congress has recognized its responsibility to school districts serving military and other federally-connected students and appropriated funds for Impact Aid. However, it is not enough to appropriate funds; there must be staff in place to ensure the funds are distributed.

We would like to understand how the Department of Education intends to continue operating the Congressionally-mandated Impact Aid program. We ask that you direct the Department to provide a report on its plan to ensure that districts receive this important funding in a timely manner. Your continued oversight is critically important as the Department adjusts to reduced staffing.

Military families often have no choice on where they are stationed. They deserve the assurance that their children will receive a high-quality education regardless of where the military sends them. Impact Aid dollars are an essential part of that equation. Please ensure that the school districts serving military families receive this important funding.

If you would like to discuss this issue and our concerns in more detail, please contact Acting Director of Government Relations Eileen Huck at ehuck@militaryfamily.org.

Sincerely,



Besa Pinchotti

Chief Executive Officer

The National Military Family Association