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| **Oppose Private School Vouchers For Military-Connected Students**  |  |

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**The Military Education Savings Accounts Act (S. 2517/H.R. 5199) creates a federally funded voucher program for students with parents on active military duty. Over the next few weeks, we expect efforts to attach this bill to the must-pass National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).**

**WHAT’S IN A NAME?**

* Whether they’re called vouchers, education savings accounts, or tuition tax credits, the impact is the same: **robbing public schools** of funding and resources that may already fall far short of what is needed.
* Vouchers divert funding and resources from public schools to private, often religious, schools ill-equipped to provide the same comprehensive **services and support** as public schools — especially important for students from military families who must deal with issues such as frequent moves and having a parent deployed overseas.

**PROPOSED PROGRAM**

* Funding for vouchers for military-connected students could come from federal **Impact Aid** for public schools serving large numbers of military-connected students.
* **Ten million students** would be affected if Impact Aid is diverted to vouchers as the Military Education Savings Account Act envisions, according to the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools.
* A voucher program is a **bad idea** even if Impact Aid is spared.
* The National Military Family Association and the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) **oppose vouchers** because they hurt the very students proponents claim to help.

**PUBLIC VS. PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

* The **overwhelming majority** of America’s students — 9 out of 10 — attend public schools.
* Private schools can **deprive students** of religious freedom, civil rights and protections, fail to provide adequate support for those with disabilities, and are not accountable to the public.
* **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.
* America cannot afford to fund **two education systems** — one private and one public — on the taxpayer’s dime.