



Legislative Call-to-Action

ACT NOW: Urge Your Members of Congress to Vote “No” on the Education Savings Accounts for Military Families Act (H.R. 5199).

H.R. 5199 would redirect federal funding designated for our public school districts through the Impact Aid program to education savings accounts (ESAs) for private school tuition (thereby functioning as a voucher program). The [House Armed Services Committee](#) is scheduled to meet this Thursday, April 26, to consider the National Defense Authorization Act. During this Committee meeting, H.R. 5199 may be introduced as an amendment to fund ESAs for military-connected students. A similar provision could be introduced in the U.S. Senate (S. 2517) when the Senate Armed Services Committee considers the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 in the coming weeks.

Your grassroots leadership and advocacy is needed to oppose H.R. 5199 and protect the Impact Aid program that provides more than \$1 billion each year to our public-school districts that educate populations of federally connected students, including those from military installations whose parents/guardians are enlisted in the Armed Forces, and those from tribal trust lands.

TAKE ACTION: Today, please email your members of Congress or call them by dialing the Capitol Hill switchboard at 202-224-3121 to be transferred to their respective offices. To obtain your Representative’s name and contact information, click [here](#).

Talking Points, a sample letter, funding data by state/congressional district, and background information are available below. Thank you to the state associations and school boards that have responded to NSBA’s updates regarding this measure!

Suggested Talking Points

- As a school board member of _____ School District, I urge you to oppose the Education Savings Accounts for Military Families Act (H.R. 5199). This bill would take much-needed resources away from our students, specifically for those who are educated through federal funding from the Impact Aid program.
- Our district receives Impact Aid funding as a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes for nontaxable federal properties within our school district’s boundaries. If this important source of funding is redirected to education savings accounts (ESAs) for private school tuition, our community and taxpayers are unable to address the shortfall. [Please reference the data below for additional details.]
- NSBA, the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS), the National Military Family Association (NMFA), and the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) have all voiced opposition to H.R. 5199, noting that 80 percent of our military-connected students attend public

schools. As explained by NAFIS and NMFA, “The proposal is a bad deal for military families – and a disaster for local public school districts charged with educating our nation’s children.”

- H.R. 5199 [could redirect as much as \\$450 million from the Impact Aid program](#). H.R. 5199 would circumvent state and local oversight of education service providers and would not ensure accountability for academic achievement. In addition, this bill would not establish safeguards against fraudulent use of ESAs.
- H.R. 5199 would place a greater financial strain on our school district and community. Therefore, I urge you to oppose H.R. 5199.

Sample Letter

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative _____,

On behalf of the _____ School District, I urge you to vote “no” regarding H.R. 5199, the Education Savings Accounts for Military Families Act.

H.R. 5199 would redirect federal funding from the Impact Aid program used for classroom instruction, counseling, tutoring and other academic support services for students whose parents/guardians are enlisted in the Armed Forces, as well as for students who reside on federal properties, such as Native American trust lands. Diverting the federal investment in Impact Aid into a voucher program through education savings accounts (ESAs) would be extremely detrimental for our school district and others that rely on this funding to educate to military-connected students.

Because of the nontaxable federal properties within our school district’s boundaries, we receive this critical source of funding through the Impact Aid program as a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes. H.R. 5199 would place a greater financial strain on many local communities with limited tax revenue. Additionally, the constituents that H.R. 5199 purports to help have expressed strong opposition to this bill. Both the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools and the National Military Family Association have stated that the legislation would be “a disaster for local public school districts charged with educating our nation’s children.”

Please vote “no” regarding H.R. 5199, as well as any provisions from this bill that could be introduced as an amendment to other legislation. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Impact Aid Funding Data by Congressional District

Below is a chart that cross references members of the House Armed Services Committee with the NAFIS payment database to demonstrate total Impact Aid payments for each of these congressional districts. The complete list of Impact Aid recipient school districts by state and congressional district is posted [here](#).

District	First	Last	Total Funding
AL 01	Bradley	Byrne	14,523.00

AL 03	Mike	Rogers	67,924.00
AL 05	Mo	Brooks	612,559.00
AZ 01	Tom	O'Halleran	112,132,048.00
AZ 07	Ruben	Gallego	0.00
CA 03	John	Garamendi	4,259,292.00
CA 08	Paul	Cook	11,185,007.00
CA 14	Jackie	Speier	0.00
CA 17	Ro	Khanna	0.00
CA 20	Jimmy	Panetta	725,676.00
CA 24	Salud	Carbajal	707,666.00
CA 50	Duncan	Hunter	6,024,302.00
CA 53	Susan	Davis	6,397,033.00
CO 05	Doug	Lamborn	27,107,407.12
CO 06	Mike	Coffman	0.00
CT 02	Joe	Courtney	4,144,808.00
FL 07	Stephanie	Murphy	0.00
GA 08	Austin	Scott	1,304,535.00
HI 01	Colleen	Hanabusa	1,885,606.00
HI 02	Tulsi	Gabbard	34,936,669.00
MA 03	Niki	Tsongas	0.00
MA 06	Seth	Moulton	489,647.00
MD 04	Anthony	Brown	1,699,613.00
MO 04	Vicky	Hartzler	96,483.00
NC 03	Walter	Jones	4,942,894.00
NH 01	Carol	Shea-Porter	6,279.00
NJ 01	Donald	Norcross	85,225.00
NJ 02	Frank	LoBiondo	935,289.00
NV 03	Jacky	Rosen	0.00
NY 04	Thomas	Suoizzi	0.00
OH 02	Brad	Wenstrup	16,691.00
OH 10	Michael	Turner	861,793.00
OK 01	Jim	Bridenstine	165,706.00
PA 01	Robert	Brady	0.00
PA 09	Bill	Shuster	6,803.00
RI 02	James	Langevin	0.00
SC 02	Joe	Wilson	247,082.00
TN 05	Jim	Cooper	71,791.00
TX 11	K.	Conaway	59,687.00
TX 13	Mac	Thornberry	622,920.00
TX 16	Beto	O'Rourke	4,512,374.00
TX 33	Marc	Veasey	0.00
UT 01	Rob	Bishop	941,200.00
VA 01	Robert	Wittman	7,778,219.00
VA 04	A.	McEachin	3,413,032.00

WA 02	Rick	Larsen	6,130,762.00
WA 09	Adam	Smith	0.00

The top ten states receiving Impact Aid funding are listed below along with the top ten states that have large populations of federally connected students.

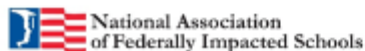
Top Ten States

Impact Aid Funding

1. Arizona
2. Alaska
3. Texas
4. New Mexico
5. California
6. South Dakota
7. Montana
8. Washington
9. New York
10. Hawaii

Federally Connected Children

1. Virginia
2. New York
3. Texas
4. California
5. Florida
6. North Carolina
7. Arizona
8. Maryland
9. Washington
10. Georgia



References

- NSBA and sixty other organizations sent this [letter](#) to Congress voicing opposition to H.R. 5199.
- Additional talking points are [available here](#).
- [NSBA Policy Position](#): NSBA supports strengthening local school board governance and community ownership in public schools and recognizes the many options and choices offered to students in our public schools. NSBA unconditionally opposes vouchers, tuition tax credits and similar schemes, and charter schools not subject to oversight of the local school boards, effectively creating a separate unaccountable system of publicly funded education.