

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5515
OFFERED BY MR. HUNTER OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle E of title V, add the following
new section:

1 SEC. 5 ____ . PILOT PROGRAM ON SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MILI-
2 TARY DEPENDENT CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL
3 EDUCATION NEEDS.

4 (a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense
6 shall, in conjunction with the Secretaries of the mili-
7 tary departments, carry out a pilot program to as-
8 sess the feasibility and advisability of awarding
9 scholarships to military children with special edu-
10 cation needs described in subsection (b) in order to
11 cover the costs of such children in attending a school
12 described in subsection (c) for the purpose of ensur-
13 ing military children with special education needs a
14 free appropriate public education that emphasizes
15 special education and related services designed to
16 meet their unique needs and prepare them for fur-
17 ther education, employment and independent living.
18 Such scholarships shall be known as “academic op-
19 portunity scholarships”.

1 (2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the pilot pro-
2 gram shall be as follows:

3 (A) To identify and assess obstacles faced
4 by military families with children with special
5 education needs in obtaining a free appropriate
6 public education to address such needs.

7 (B) To develop options for military chil-
8 dren with special education needs to attend
9 public or private schools through scholarships.

10 (C) To identify and assess evidence-based
11 research and best practices for providing special
12 education and related services (as those terms
13 are defined in section 602 of the Individuals
14 with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C.
15 1401)) for military children with special edu-
16 cation needs.

17 (D) To assess timeliness in obtaining spe-
18 cial education and related services described in
19 subparagraph (C).

20 (E) To identify and document improve-
21 ments in academic performance of military chil-
22 dren with special education needs as a result of
23 the scholarships under the pilot program.

24 (F) To determine and document the cost
25 associated with obtaining special education and

1 related services described in subparagraph (C)
2 through such scholarships.

3 (3) CRITERIA.—The Secretary of Defense shall
4 carry out the pilot program based on uniform cri-
5 teria established by the Secretary, in consultation
6 with the Secretary of Education or the appropriate
7 State government agency.

8 (4) COMMENCEMENT.—The Secretary of De-
9 fense shall commence carrying out the pilot program
10 beginning with the 2019-2020 academic year.

11 (b) COVERED MILITARY DEPENDENT CHILDREN.—
12 A military dependent child described in this subsection is
13 a child who—

14 (1) is a dependent of a member of the Armed
15 Forces;

16 (2) is a member of a family enrolled in the Ex-
17 ceptional Family Member program administered by
18 the Secretary of the military department concerned;

19 (3) is a child with a disability under section 602
20 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
21 (20 U.S.C. 1401); and

22 (4) is covered by a current individualized edu-
23 cation program developed and approved in accord-
24 ance with section 614 of the Individuals with Dis-
25 abilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1414) or has

1 been identified as needing special education and re-
2 lated services.

3 (c) COVERED SCHOOLS.—A school described in this
4 subsection is any elementary or secondary school as fol-
5 lows:

6 (1) A private elementary school or secondary
7 school.

8 (2) A public school in a local educational agen-
9 cy or location other than the local educational agen-
10 cy or location, as the case may be, in which the mili-
11 tary dependent child concerned resides.

12 (3) A public charter school in a local edu-
13 cational agency or location other than the local edu-
14 cational agency or location, as the case may be, in
15 which the military dependent child concerned re-
16 sides.

17 (d) AMOUNT, PAYMENT, AND USE OF SCHOLAR-
18 SHIP.—

19 (1) AMOUNT.—The amount of the scholarship
20 awarded a military dependent child under the pilot
21 program for an academic year may not exceed the
22 lesser of—

23 (A) the amount required for such academic
24 year for the payment of tuition, fees, transpor-
25 tation, and other expenses in connection with

1 attendance at a school described in subsection
2 (c) for the purpose specified in subsection (a);
3 or
4 (B) \$7,500.

5 (2) PAYMENT.—Payment of the amount of a
6 scholarship awarded a military dependent child shall
7 be made to the parent or guardian of the child for
8 an academic year.

9 (3) USE.—Subject to regulations prescribed by
10 the Secretary of Defense for purposes of the pilot
11 program, the amount of the scholarship awarded a
12 military dependent child shall be utilized for the pay-
13 ment of tuition, fees, transportation, and other ex-
14 penses in connection with attendance at a school de-
15 scribed in subsection (c) for the purpose specified in
16 subsection (a).

17 (e) EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE OF RECIPIENT
18 MILITARY DEPENDENT CHILDREN.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense
20 shall conduct an evaluation of the performance of
21 military dependent children awarded scholarships
22 under the pilot program. The evaluation shall ad-
23 dress the following:

1 (A) The progress made by military depend-
2 ent children awarded scholarships in academic
3 and social performance.

4 (B) The success of the scholarships in ex-
5 panding choice in education and related services
6 for military dependent children described in
7 subsection (b).

8 (C) The success of the scholarships in en-
9 suring timely access of military dependent chil-
10 dren described in subsection (b) to special edu-
11 cation and related services required under their
12 individualized education programs.

13 (D) Such other matters as the Secretary
14 considers appropriate.

15 (2) COMPLETION.—The evaluation required by
16 paragraph (1) shall be completed not later than De-
17 cember 31, 2023.

18 (f) OPTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL
19 OPPORTUNITIES FOR MILITARY CHILDREN WITH SPE-
20 CIAL EDUCATION NEEDS.—

21 (1) DEVELOPMENT OF OPTIONS.—The Sec-
22 retary of the Defense shall, in consultation with the
23 Secretary of Education, develop a variety of options
24 for military families with children with special edu-
25 cation needs to enhance the benefits available to

1 such families and children under the Individuals
2 with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et
3 seq.) and better assist such families in meeting such
4 needs.

5 (2) ACTIONS.—In developing actions under
6 paragraph (1), the Secretaries shall consider the fol-
7 lowing:

8 (A) The feasibility of establishing an indi-
9 vidualized education program for military chil-
10 dren with special education needs that is appli-
11 cable across jurisdictions of local educational
12 agencies in order to achieve reciprocity among
13 States in acknowledging such programs.

14 (B) Means of improving oversight and
15 compliance with the provisions of section 614 of
16 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
17 (20 U.S.C. 1414) that require local educational
18 agencies to support an existing individualized
19 education program for a military child with spe-
20 cial education needs who is relocating to an-
21 other State pursuant to the permanent change
22 of station of a military parent until an individ-
23 ualized education program is developed and ap-
24 proved for such child in the State to which the
25 child relocates.

1 (C) The feasibility of establishing an expedited process for resolution of complaints by
2 military parents with a child with special education needs about lack of access to education
3 and related services otherwise specified in the individualized education program of such child.
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6 (D) The feasibility of permitting the Department of Defense to contact the State to
7 which a military family with a child with special education needs will relocate pursuant to a permanent change of station when the orders for
8 such change of station are issued, but before the family takes residence in such State, for the
9 purpose of commencing preparation for education and related services specified in the individualized education program of such child.
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12 (E) The feasibility of establishing a system within the Department of Defense to document
13 complaints by military parents regarding access to free and appropriate public education for
14 their children with special education needs.
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17 (F) Means to strengthen the monitoring and oversight of education and related services
18 for military children with special education
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1 needs under the Interstate Compact on Edu-
2 cational Opportunities for Military Children.

3 (G) Such other matters as the Secretaries
4 jointly consider appropriate.

5 (g) REPORTS.—

6 (1) REPORT ON IMPROVEMENTS OF EDU-
7 CATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.—Not later than Sep-
8 tember 30, 2020, the Secretary of Defense shall sub-
9 mit to Congress a report setting forth the options
10 developed under subsection (f). The report shall in-
11 clude—

12 (A) a description of any options developed;
13 and

14 (B) recommendations for such legislative
15 or administrative action as the Secretary of De-
16 fense and the Secretary of Education jointly
17 consider appropriate to implement such options.

18 (2) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PILOT
19 PROGRAM.—Not later than September 30, 2019, the
20 Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees
21 on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of
22 Representatives a report setting forth the plans of
23 the Secretary for the award of scholarships under
24 the pilot program, including any regulations pre-
25 scribed for purposes of subsection (d)(3).

1 (3) FINAL REPORT ON PILOT PROGRAM.—Not
2 later than September 30, 2024, the Secretary shall
3 submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the
4 Senate and the House of Representatives a report on
5 the scholarships awarded under the pilot program.
6 The report shall include—

7 (A) a description of the scholarships
8 awarded under the pilot program, including the
9 number and amount of scholarships by school
10 year;

11 (B) the results of the evaluation required
12 by subsection (e); and

13 (C) such other matters as the Secretary
14 considers appropriate.

15 (h) FUNDING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.—

16 (1) ADDITIONAL, DISCRETIONARY BUDGET AU-
17 THORITY.—Of the amounts authorized to be appro-
18 priated by section 301 for operation and mainte-
19 nance, defense-wide, for family advocacy activities,
20 as specified in the corresponding funding table in di-
21 vision D, the Secretary of Defense shall obligate an
22 additional \$10,000,000 to award scholarships to
23 military dependent children under the pilot program.

24 (2) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EX-
25 PENSES.—Not more than five percent of the amount

1 specified in paragraph (1) may be used to cover ad-
2 ministrative expenses to carry out the pilot program.

3 (3) MERIT-BASED OR COMPETITIVE DECI-
4 SIONS.—A decision to commit, obligate, or expend
5 funds made available under paragraph (1) with or to
6 a specific entity or person shall—

7 (A) be based on merit-based selection pro-
8 cedures in accordance with the requirements of
9 sections 2304(k) and 2374 of title 10, United
10 States Code, or on competitive procedures; and

11 (B) comply with other applicable provisions
12 of law.

13 (i) SUNSET.—The pilot program shall expire on Sep-
14 tember 30, 2024. No scholarship may be awarded under
15 the pilot program for an academic year that begins on or
16 after that date.

17 (j) FUNDING INCREASE AND OFFSETTING REDUC-
18 TION.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the
19 funding tables in division D—

20 (1) the amount authorized to be appropriated in
21 section 301 for operation and maintenance, defense-
22 wide, as specified in the corresponding funding table
23 in division D, is hereby increased by \$10,000,000,
24 with the amount of the increase allocated to carrying
25 out the pilot program; and

1 (2) the amount authorized to be appropriated in
2 section for Defense Environmental Cleanup, as spec-
3 ified in the corresponding funding table in division
4 D, is hereby reduced by \$10,000,000.

