OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

April 9, 2019

The Honorable Gabrielle LeDoux
Chair, House Military and Veterans' Affairs
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: HB 109 – Military Children School Residency Waiver

Chair LeDoux and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of military families and the Department of Defense, I am writing to express support for the policy changes proposed in HB 109, a bill that addresses kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12) enrollment and course registration access for children of military families.

My name is Tammie Perreault and I am the Northwest Regional Liaison for the Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Community and Family Policy. Our mission is to be a resource to state policymakers as they work to address quality of life issues of military families.

Approximately 185,000 U.S. military children move between schools annually. Military service members are routinely reassigned to new duty stations, due to mission and training requirements. As a result of these moves, they may potentially miss their child's school registration and other important application dates that occur in the spring. Long-term negative impacts include having to shift their planned courses of study, which may require them to take courses in summer school, or even force them to graduate later than their peers.

Service members typically receive official military orders detailing their upcoming assignment 30 days to 6 months prior to their move. Allowing military families to enroll their children in school, register for classes and apply for specialized programs at the same time as their peers, prior to physically arriving to their location, will help to facilitate their uninterrupted educational progress and smooth integration into their new communities, and relieve unneeded stress during their transition between locations.

With nearly 10,000 active duty military school-age children attending school in this state, Alaska is in a unique position to have a positive effect on the educational experiences of military children and families. The intent of this policy is not to offer an advantage or priority over other students, but simply to provide military families access to educational programs and courses at

the same time as their in-state peers. No new online systems are required and there is added benefit to school districts by reducing the discrepancy between projected and actual student enrollment numbers for staffing purposes.

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In closing, we are grateful for the tremendous efforts that Alaska has historically made to support our military members and their families. We appreciate the opportunity to support the policy reflected in HB 109. Thank you for taking the time to consider this issue. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Tammie Perreault
Regional Liaison (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY)
Defense-State Liaison Office

CC: Representative Chris Tuck