



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY ALASKA
724 POSTAL SERVICE LOOP #5000
FORT RICHARDSON, ALASKA 99505-5000

March 18, 2009

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Office of the Commanding General

Honorable John Coghill
Alaska House of Representatives
House District 11 - North Pole
State Capitol, Room 214
120 4th Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Subject: Support of House Bill #137, "Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children"

Dear Mr. Coghill:

The United States Army Alaska (USARAK) would like to inform you of our support for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children (House Bill #137). In the state of Alaska, there are approximately 12,000 school age children of active duty military personnel. As these students move from state to state, many of them encounter considerable challenges when dealing with enrollment, eligibility, placement, extra-curricular activities, and graduation requirements. Often, military students lose course credits due to multiple school transfers and are sometimes improperly placed in courses due to the varying school requirements. The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children will help to ease this frustration and will aid military students in the school transition process.

USARAK appreciates all that Alaska public schools have done on behalf of our military children regarding transition and deployment issues. The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children will only serve to complement and augment what is already being done in the Alaska public schools. Additionally, this bill will join Alaska with other states in an effort to streamline the school transition process and create much needed uniformity between states.

For these reasons, USARAK supports this compact and encourages the Alaska House of Representatives to pass House Bill #137.

Sincerely,

Stephen R. Layfield
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding Officer