

March 21, 2017

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

The Reserve Officers Association of the United States supports the "Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserve Act" to expand the Military Student Identifier to Reserve Component students.

ROA is pleased that you are including these students in the "Every Student Succeeds Act" so resources can be brought to bear for ensuring their success in school. A 2011 GAO study found, "There are no national public data on military dependent students' academic progress, attendance, or long-term outcomes, such as college attendance or workplace readiness."


Studies have shown that these children are more likely to experience difficulties and anxieties that can affect how they perform in the classroom. The study titled, *Residential Mobility and Adolescent Violence*, included an observation that mobile students report having fewer close friends and are less likely to be actively engaged with peer social networks.

Additionally, the National Association of School Psychologists published a study titled "School Transitions Among Military Adolescents: A Qualitative Study of Stress Appraisal and Coping," which found, "One-third of school-age military children show psychosocial behaviors such as being anxious, worrying often, and crying more frequently." Adolescents who experience school transitions may be particularly vulnerable to experiencing adjustment problems (e.g., academic failure, health risk behaviors, drug use, and complaints about body-related illnesses) following a stressful family event such as relocation.

A student identifier might identify problems that arise because military dependent students are often subjected to additional challenges such as family separation and more frequent moves.

ROA has a membership of 50,000 and is the only national military association that exclusively supports all the uniformed reserve components of the United States. Thank you for your efforts on this issue, and your support of our veterans. Please have your staff call Susan Lukas, ROA's legislative director, at 202-646-7713 or e-mail at slukas@roa.org with any question or issue you would like to discuss.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey E. Phillips
Maj. Gen., USA (Ret.)
Executive Director

Thank you for your leadership, Senator!