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MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

June 11, 2021

Honorable Andrew Brenner
Chair, Senate Primary & Secondary Education Committee
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chair Brenner,

On behalf of the Department of Defense, I am providing proponent testimony for HB 244 which will enable military parents during reassignments to enroll their children in a school district's virtual learning option if one is available as they are moving into and out of a school district. HB 244 will also give an opportunity for advance enrollment at their new location prior to their actual move.

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

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children provides opportunities for assistance during transition, but does not address virtual school support and advance enrollment which was developed after the Compact was formed. Yet, virtual schools and advance enrollment can help minimize disruptions in education during transitions.

Military service members are typically reassigned to new duty stations during the summer. However, when they receive permanent change of station orders to move midterm, a family could anticipate this potential out of cycle relocation and register for virtual classes in the receiving state during the transition semester. The military student would also be given an opportunity to advance enrollment during this transition period. This option would help to avoid receiving course incompletions that could prevent military students from graduating with their peers.

In closing, we are grateful for the tremendous support that Ohio has previously made and continues to make in support of our military members and their families. As they move from state to state, providing for a smooth educational transition for military school aged children is key to eliminating one of the largest concerns the parents face. We appreciate the opportunity to support the policy reflected in HB 244. Thank you again Chair Brenner for giving me the opportunity to support HB 244. I would also like to thank Representatives White and Lampton for sponsoring HB 244. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

James D. Rickel
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(IN, IL, OH, MI, ND, SD, WI, WV)
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