

## **NCPE Opposes the Banks Amendment #40**

**The organizations representing the military families affected by this legislation oppose it.** Organizations opposing H.R. 5199 include: [The National Military Family Association](#), [the Military Child Education Coalition](#), the [Military Officers Association of America](#), and [The Military Coalition](#), a consortium of uniformed services and veterans organizations representing more than 5.5 million current and former service members and their families. These groups don't want to see Impact Aid funding reduced for the public schools serving the majority of military families.

**The Banks Amendment could redirect as much as \$450 million from the Impact Aid program into private school vouchers.** Impact Aid funds could be reduced in more than 1,100 school districts, educating more than ten million students, [by approximately 39 percent](#). The potential for such a significant funding reduction would severely hinder a school district's ability to maintain the staff, programs, services, and infrastructure necessary to support military connected students, a vast majority of whom are educated in public school districts.

**Vouchers will funnel dollars away from the public schools that are equipped to serve military families. 80% of military-connected students attend public schools.** The school districts serving these students understand that education is a quality of life issue for military families and understand their unique challenges, particularly related to parental deployment and mobility, and offer the academic and emotional supports necessary to support these students. Private schools educating a few military-connected students may not be well-equipped to provide similar services. They also have additional protections in the public schools that don't exist in private schools, including the [Military Interstate Children's Compact](#), which is an agreement among the 50 states that "addresses key educational transition issues encountered by military families including enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility and graduation."

**Vouchers for highly mobile students are impractical.** Military children will, on average, attend between six and nine schools from grades K-12. The high mobility rate of this population makes the implementation of a voucher impractical for both students and school districts. It will be especially difficult to ensure that dollars are captured and recouped when students leave a school year mid-year.

**Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) are private school vouchers.** ESAs can be used for private school tuition, among other things. All of the problems inherent to voucher programs also apply to this program. These include a [lack of accountability](#), the loss of students' of rights and protections – in particular, [the loss of IDEA rights for students with disabilities](#), and [declines in students' educational outcomes](#).

**Public funds should fund public schools.** Congress would better serve all military-connected families by fully funding Impact Aid instead of diverting federal funding into a private school voucher plan.