

Chairman Lamar Alexander

ID: LFG-2018-0008

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

428 Senate Dirksen Office Building

Washington, D.C 20510

Chairman John McCain

Senate Committee on Armed Services

Russell Senate Building, Room 228

Washington, D.C 20510

Ranking Member Patty Murray

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

428 Senate Dirksen Office Building

Washington, D.C 20510

Ranking Member Jack Reed

Senate Committee on Armed Services

Russel Senate Building, Room 228

Washington, D.C 20510

April 9th, 2018

Re: Opposition to the Military Education Savings Account Act of 2018

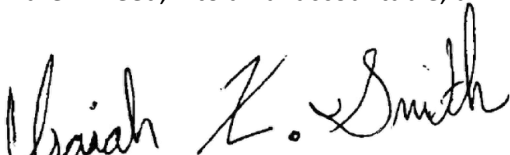
Chairmen Lamar Alexander and John McCain and Ranking Members Patty Murray and Jack Reed,

I am sending you all this letter in opposition to the Military Education Savings Account Act of 2018.¹ It is to my knowledge and understanding that the Military Education Savings Act of 2018 has a purpose as to using federal funds from a federal program, Impact Aid, and to use those funds for a program that is identical to a voucher program. This type of scheme would be used to pay for private school tuition, tutoring, or homeschooling materials for military families. It appears as if the bill does have the intent as to helping establish saving accounts, in which would be ESAs, for some military based students and students that have a parent on active duty in the armed forces of the United States. While I would like to point out that I am not against military families receiving competent and adequate

¹ It appears as if the bill is supported by Secretary Betsy DeVos.

educational resources that will help them succeed, I do not believe that it would be a good idea for the United States to divert public funds from public educational institutions that serve the majority of students in the United States, to private educational institutions that serve a selected few students who typically come from affluent families already. So, in my opinion, I believe that it makes no sense to add more funds to private educational institutions that are already being funded by affluent families when public educational institutions are typically in most cases not.

While I would like to point out again that I am not against military families receiving competent and adequate educational resources that will help them succeed in our world, I do believe that the current version of the Military Education Savings Account Act of 2018 would strip funding from public educational institutions to private educational institutions that serve a selected few. I believe that the current version of the piece of legislation lacks accountability, as typically traditional vouchers do. I believe that instead of supporting the Military Education Savings Act of 2018, I believe that all of you instead need to build on efforts, such as the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, in which seeks to make school transition for military families easier. Not anything that threatens to withdraw funding in which compensates federal activity in and for public educational institutions. Public funds in my opinion, with regard and pertaining to education, need to go towards helping improve the quality of education that students receive in public educational institutions that already are in a desperate need of resources that they need in order to help them be successful. I do not believe that those public funds should be diverted, in which would have been used to offer aid to communities that are in need, into an unaccountable, unwise and a confusing voucher scheme.²


Respectfully,

Isaiah X. Smith³

² This includes but is not limited to Impact Aid funds.

³ www.isaiahxsmith.com