

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4721

To make dependents of members of the Armed Forces who died while serving on active duty eligible for enrollment in Department of Defense Education Activity schools on a tuition-free, space-available basis.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 11 (legislative day, JULY 10), 2024

Mr. OSSOFF (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. CRAMER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To make dependents of members of the Armed Forces who died while serving on active duty eligible for enrollment in Department of Defense Education Activity schools on a tuition-free, space-available basis.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Gold Star Children
5 Education Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF DEPENDENTS OF CERTAIN DE-**
2 **CEASED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES**
3 **FOR ENROLLMENT IN DEPARTMENT OF DE-**
4 **FENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY SCHOOLS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 108 of title 10, United
6 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-
7 ing to section 2164a the following new section:

8 **“§ 2164b. Eligibility of dependents of certain de-**
9 **ceased members for enrollment in schools**
10 **operated by Department of Defense Edu-**
11 **cation Activity**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A dependent of a covered mem-
13 ber is eligible to enroll in a school operated by the Depart-
14 ment of Defense Education Activity without regard to—

15 “(1) whether the dependent was enrolled in
16 such a school on the date of the death of the mem-
17 ber; or

18 “(2) the proximity of the school in which the
19 dependent seeks enrollment to the location where the
20 dependent resided on the date of the death of the
21 member.

22 “(b) TUITION-FREE, SPACE-AVAILABLE ENROLL-
23 MENT.—Enrollment of a dependent of a covered member
24 in a school operated by the Department of Defense Edu-
25 cation Activity shall be on a tuition-free and space-avail-
26 able basis.

1 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 “(1) COVERED MEMBER.—The term ‘covered
3 member’ means a member of the armed forces who
4 died while serving on active duty or active Guard
5 and Reserve duty.

6 “(2) SCHOOL OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT
7 OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY.—The term
8 ‘school operated by the Department of Defense Edu-
9 cation Activity’ means—

10 “(A) a Department of Defense domestic
11 dependent elementary or secondary school es-
12 tablished under section 2164 of this title; or

13 “(B) any elementary or secondary school
14 for dependents of members of the armed forces
15 operated by the Department of Defense Edu-
16 cation Activity.”.

17 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
18 at the beginning of chapter 108 of such title is amended
19 by inserting after the item relating to section 2164a the
20 following new item:

“2164b. Eligibility of dependents of certain deceased members for enrollment in
schools operated by Department of Defense Education Activ-
ity.”.

21 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
22 tion or the amendments made by this section may be con-
23 strued to affect the eligibility of dependents of individuals
24 described in subsection (j)(2) of section 2164 of title 10,

- 1 United States Code, for enrollment in a Department of
- 2 Defense education program provided by the Secretary of
- 3 Defense pursuant to subsection (a) of that section.

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