

## **Helping Military Children Succeed in Schools Act** *Senator Patty Murray [D-WA]*

### **The Challenge**

Today, over two million children under the age of 18 have at least one active-duty parent and nearly 500,000 of those children are between the ages of birth and five years. These children live with perpetual challenges presented by frequent moves, parental deployments, and a host of life transitions that include reintegration and dealing with profoundly changed parents.

The well-being of these children depends heavily on a network of supportive adults who are trained to identify early signs of emotional or physical challenges. Though there are over one million school-age military-connected students in pre-kindergarten through grade twelve, there is no reliable, consistent school-based data on the academic well-being of these students.

Without a military-connected student identifier, military-impacted school districts cannot track their military-connected students' performance; educators cannot effectively prepare transitioning students for their new school; there are no key performance indicators for the local districts to discover practices and processes worthy of attention and replication for students from prekindergarten through grade twelve; and what could be learned from quality data about the military-connected student will not be available to help other children who experience school moves or other disruptions to academic continuity or opportunity.

### **The Solution**

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act already requires reporting on student populations under Section 1111. To comply with these reporting requirements, school districts and states already collect and report student demographic and performance data on identifiers including gender, ethnicity, and low-income status.

The *Helping Military Children Succeed in Schools Act* creates a report-only subgroup for military-connected children to generate precise data about where our military-connected children attend school and how they are performing. This information will assist federal, state, and local entities to best target resources for this vulnerable population. The data generated by this legislation will not be used for accountability purposes.