SEC. ___. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES RELATING TO THE TRANSITION AND SUPPORT OF MILITARY DEPENDENT STUDENTS TO OR SERVED BY LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.

Paragraph (3) of section 574(c) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (20 U.S.C. 7703b note) is amended by striking "September 30, 2017" and inserting "September 30, 2018".

[Please note: The "Changes to Existing Law" section below sets out in red-line format how the legislative text would amend existing law.

Section-by-Section Analysis

This proposal would authorize the Secretary of Defense to directly support and influence local educational agencies (LEAs) serving the approximately 617,000 school-aged children from military-connected families living in the United States who do not attend Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools, through September 30, 2018. Over 80% of school-aged children from military-connected families are enrolled in United States (U.S.) public schools.

The overarching goal of the authority is to ensure military-connected students attending U.S. public schools receive a quality education, and the continuity in academic and social support programs to be successful.

This proposal would authorize DoDEA to support the Partnership mission and strategies by providing funding to LEAs, developing partnerships with colleges and universities, and providing outreach to stakeholders, including non-federal entities. This authority would enable DoDEA to reach beyond the smaller population of military-connected students who attend DoDEA schools, (estimated to be around 4% of the total population of military-connected students in the U.S.) to the remaining military-connected students who are not eligible to attend DoDEA schools, including students whose parents are among the reserve forces or the National Guard.

The authority would ensure that the resources shared would support research-based programs that aim to increase student achievement and ease the challenges that military children face due to their parents' military service. Using a rigorous evaluation, DoDEA focuses on ensuring accountability and performance outcomes for each grantee. The authority would provide resources to military-connected LEAs to develop and implement projects and opportunities that are designed to carry out the following:

1. Promote student achievement in the core curricular areas.
2. Ease the challenges that military students face due to transitions and deployments.
3. Support the unique social and emotional needs of military students.

4. Promote distance learning opportunities.
5. Improve educator professional development.
6. Enhance and integrate technology.
7. Encourage parental involvement.

The need for this authority is as important today as when it originated in 2008. The inconsistencies in the quality of education remain significant, and the authority for the Department of Defense (DoD) to directly engage and influence the educational opportunities of military-connected students in public schools has proven to be a powerful tool on behalf of military-connected children.

The need for such assistance is substantial. The authority allows the DoD to address the Department's and Services' interest in optimizing educational delivery in the U.S. in public schools supporting large military installations. For example, the former Chief of Staff of the Army directed an assessment of the performance of public schools that support Army children and youth. Quality education opportunities for Army children and youth are essential to ensure the readiness and retention of soldiers. The quality of schools and their children's education is a prime concern of Army families.

The return on investment for such assistance is valid and substantial. Since 2008, DoDEA has awarded more than 369 grants to LEAs, reaching more than 566,000 military connected students in over 2,440 public schools in 36 states. Data indicates that there is significant improvement in student achievement, increased professional development for teachers, and enhanced social and emotional support as a result of these awards. Nearly 80 percent of the grantees are focused on improving student outcomes in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education, which is essential in preparing our students for success in the competitive global world.

The quality of K-12 education is an important criterion for military families as they make career decisions on assignments, and is linked to retention and readiness in the military services. The authority addresses the recent findings from a survey of Military Times readers that highlight the powerful connection between the K-12 education of military-connected children and military readiness. Military families make choices about whether to accept a particular duty station or depart the Armed Forces based in part on the quality of surrounding schools. The men and women who wear the uniform are at risk of voting with their feet if the education of their children suffers because of their choice to serve the nation. Military readiness is a multi-faceted challenge, and the education of military-connected children plays a vital role.

U.S. service members with children are strongly influenced by how well their child is performing academically as well as perceptions of the quality of education their child will receive at a new posting. New data show that service members weigh these factors heavily in their decision to take an assignment that requires moving to another state.

Budget Implications: Neither the authority nor the initiatives implemented under the auspices of the authority create costs to the Services. Because the authority has been and will likely continue to be resourced through existing DoDEA resources, the proposal is considered cost-

neutral to the Department. This cost neutral proposal requests DoD retain the authority for one additional year to share existing DoDEA resources with LEAs supporting military-connected students.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS ($MILLIONS)					
	FY 2018	**Appropriation From**	**Budget Activity**	**Dash-1 Line Item**	**Program Element**
DoDEA	30.0	Operation & Maintenance Defense Wide	04	4GTJ	0808899BT
Army	--	--	--	--	--
Navy	--	--	--	--	--
Marine Corps	--	--	--	--	--
Air Force	--	--	--	--	--
Total	30.0	--	--	--	--

Changes to Existing Law: The proposal would amend section 574(c)(3) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (20 U.S.C. 7703b(c)(3) note) to read as follows:

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(c) TRANSITION OF MILITARY DEPENDENTS AMONG LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.--(1) The Secretary of Defense shall support efforts to ease the educational transitions of military dependent students among schools of local educational agencies.

(2) The Secretary of Defense may use funds of the Department of Defense Education Activity for the following purposes:

(A) To share expertise and experience of the Activity by developing partnerships with colleges and universities and providing outreach to local educational agencies as military dependent students make the transitions described in paragraph (1).

(B) To provide grant assistance programs for local educational agencies with military dependent students undergoing the transitions described in paragraph (1), including:

(i) access to virtual and distance learning capabilities and related applications;

(ii) training programs for teachers;

(iii) academic strategies to increase academic achievement;

(iv) curriculum development;

(v) support for practices that minimize the impact of transition and deployment; and

(vii) other services appropriate to improve the academic achievement of students."

(3) The authority provided by this subsection expires September 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

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