



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion Albany
1 Buffington Street, Building 25, Suite 300
Watervliet, New York 12189**

10 March 2014

Office of the Commander

An open letter to the Education Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly,
RE: Senate Bill 423

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As the senior commander for the U.S. Army Recruiting in Connecticut, I respectfully submit the following testimony with regards to the subject bill.

If enacted, SB 423 would require public schools that administer the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) to select reporting **Option 8**. This option prohibits the general release of any student test information and test line scores to military recruiters. When scores are not released to military recruiters, parents and students miss out on a valuable career exploration tool and may not receive information about opportunities available to them in a civilian career field or career in the military.

The ASVAB and follow-on Career Exploration Program (CEP) provide mutual benefits to schools, parents, students, and the military. The ASVAB provides a career exploration tool to educators and students at no cost to the school. The school receives the benefit of helping parents and students decide a future career path based on student demonstrated aptitude and interests. Students benefit from the test results because they act as a guide to both military and civilian career paths for which they are suited. Military services benefit from the enlistment eligibility information for military service.

The core issues behind the bill appear to be student privacy and access to student information by the recruiting services. Participation in the ASVAB is voluntary and is not a ruse to gather personal information on students for recruitment purposes.

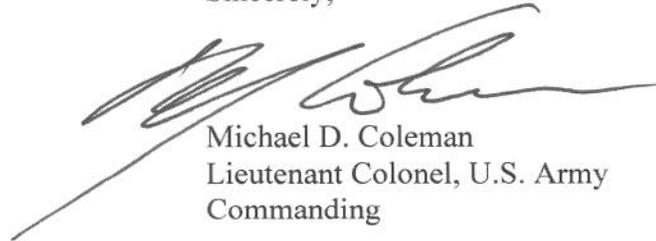
In reality, military recruiters do not rely entirely on the test results report as a lead generation source for student contact. The primary lead generation source for the military services lies in Public Law 107-110 and 20 U.S.C. §7908 (No Child Left Behind) which requires schools who receive federal funding to provide student directory information, i.e., full name, address and telephone number for all students currently enrolled in the 11th and 12th grade to military recruiters (and also provides a provision that allows parents to opt-out from the release of this information.)

Moreover, if enacted, students will lose a proven occupational, vocational and technical counseling tool and the opportunity afforded by the Career Exploration Program (CEP.) The CEP is designed to assist educators, parents and students explore individual interests, skills, values and careers using quantifiable and individualized information - whether it involves going to college or trade school, joining the military or entering the workforce.

Finally, even when a school selects the option to not release test scores to recruiters, the results of the test are still maintained by the Military Entrance Processing Command (MEPCOM), the organization responsible for administering the test. Test scores remain valid for a period of two years and when an applicant initiates the enlistment process, a request for test data is processed. So even if a school does not release test scores, individual results may still be accessed at a later date.

We ask that you not favorably consider approving this bill as it would ultimately have an adverse impact on parents and students abilities to effectively explore important options and career paths as well as our effort to build, support and sustain our Nation's military.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Coleman
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding