



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

March 22, 2019

The Honorable James J. Maroney
The Honorable Dorinda Borer
Co-Chairs, Committee on Veterans' Affairs
300 Capitol Ave
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

RE: HB7248 – In-State Student Status for Spouses and Childrens of Certain Members of the
Armed Forces

Chairpersons Maroney and Borer and Members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

On behalf of military families and the Department of Defense, I am writing to express support for the policy changes proposed in HB7248, a bill that addresses residency requirements for attendance at post-secondary public institutions for the purpose of tuition.

My name is Harold Cooney and I am the Northeast Regional Liaison for the Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Community and Family Policy. Our mission is to be a resource to state policymakers as they work to address quality of life issues of military families.

In most states, students with a military sponsor stationed in a state are given an "in-state" status for tuition purposes. Historically, public institutions only use terminology such as "enrolled" or "continuously enrolled" rather than "accepted". This causes a problem as the student that has been accepted has not yet had the opportunity to enroll. Thus, if the sponsor retires, leaves the service or has a change of station out-of-state between the student receiving the letter of acceptance and the start of classes, the student can lose their in-state status.

We believe that a spouse or child of an active member of the armed forces assigned to duty in-state at the time of the dependent receiving a letter of acceptance should be deemed an in-state resident for purposes of determining tuition and fees as long as the spouse or child remits the appropriate fees and remains continuously enrolled in the institution of higher learning, regardless of a change of the service member's status. Currently 6 states, to include Arizona, Arkansas, California, New Mexico, Texas and Virginia, have incorporated language that addresses this discrepancy.

We are grateful for the tremendous efforts that Connecticut has historically made to support our military members and their families. We appreciate the opportunity to support the policy reflected in HB7248, and are especially grateful to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for introducing this important piece of legislation. Thank you for taking the time to consider this issue. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



Harold E. Cooney
Northeast Regional Liaison
Defense-State Liaison Office
Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Military Community and Family Policy)