



MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

March 21, 2022

The Honorable Brian A. Campion
115 State Street
State House
Montpelier, VT 05633-5501

RE: Support of S104 (Ram Hinsdale), S105 (Ram Hinsdale)

Dear Senator Campion:

On behalf of military families and the Department of Defense, I am writing in support of the policy changes proposed in Senate Bills S104 and S105, acts relating to educational opportunities and other important protections for military families and their dependents. These items are on the March 23, 2022 agenda of the Senate Education Committee, and the Department supports the favorable report of the policies reflected in the bills.

My name is Christopher Arnold and I am the Northeast Region Liaison for the United States Department of Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. Our mission is to be a resource to state policymakers as they work to address quality of life issues of military families.

With each move, military service members face numerous challenges as they bring their spouses and children to resettle into new communities and attend new schools. When taken together, this legislation encompasses a variety of best practices expressing the Department's fullest intent for a number of our key issues affecting service members and their families: advance enrollment, in-state tuition continuity Purple Star Schools.

- Military children are often limited in their school and course registration options due to the timing of military-directed moves. With Senate Bill S104, Vermont will help by waiving proof of residency requirements until the student arrives in the new state on military transfer orders.
- Senate Bill S104 also allows a spouse or child of an active-duty service member, if they have been accepted at an institution of higher learning, to be deemed an in-state resident as long as they remain continuously enrolled.
- Senate Bill S105 provides state-sponsored recognition for schools and districts who emphasize the importance of assisting military children with school transition.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these issues. Please feel free to contact me at 571-309-4712 with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER R. ARNOLD

Northeast Region Liaison
Defense-State Liaison Office

CC: Members of the Senate Education Committee
Commissioner Daniel French, Vermont Department of Education
Commissioner David Young, Vermont Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission
Major General Gregory Knight, the Adjutant General