

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2529

To provide support for military families with dependents in the Exceptional Family Member Program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 26, 2023

Mrs. FEINSTEIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To provide support for military families with dependents
in the Exceptional Family Member Program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SUPPORT FOR MILITARY FAMILIES WITH DE-**
4 **PENDENTS IN THE EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY**
5 **MEMBER PROGRAM.**

6 (a) GUARANTEE OF MEDICAL, EDUCATION, AND OR-
7 GANIZATION SUPPORT.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of a military
9 department shall ensure, upon issuing relocation or-
10 ders to an eligible member, that—

1 (A) the member will not be required to re-
2 locate again—

3 (i) during the 6 months after the
4 issuance of such orders, if the member is
5 assigned to a duty station within the con-
6 tiguous United States; or

7 (ii) during the 8 months after the
8 issuance of such orders, if the member is
9 assigned to a duty station outside of the
10 contiguous United States;

11 (B) initial care appointments for the quali-
12 fying dependent of the member—

13 (i) will be scheduled not later than 60
14 days after the issuance of such orders; and

15 (ii) will occur not later than 30 days
16 after the dependent arrives at the new
17 duty station of the member; and

18 (C) the commander of the member at the
19 new duty station of provides feedback to the
20 member with respect to continuity of care for
21 the dependent.

22 (2) FACILITATION OF RELOCATIONS.—The Sec-
23 retary of each military department shall ensure the
24 establishment of systematic and transparent meth-
25 ods to connect commands and eligible members to

1 facilitate outgoing preparations relating to the relo-
2 cations of such members and onboarding processes
3 for such members at new duty stations, with par-
4 ticular emphasis on coordination between com-
5 manders at the previous duty station and at the new
6 duty station.

7 (b) GUARDIANSHIP GRANTS.—The Secretary of De-
8 fense may provide to an eligible member a grant of \$5,000
9 for each qualifying dependent of the member who is under
10 the age of 18 to be used for legal expenses related to han-
11 dling guardianship of the dependent when the dependent
12 achieves the age of 18.

13 (c) HOUSING GRANTS.—The Secretary of each mili-
14 tary department may provide to an eligible member, after
15 each permanent change of station of the member, a reim-
16 bursable, specially adapted housing grant of \$8,000 if—

17 (1) the qualifying dependent of the member has
18 a permanent and total disability; and

19 (2) the Secretary determines that the disability
20 reasonably requires adaptations to the residence of
21 the member and the dependent at the new duty sta-
22 tion.

23 (d) SPECIALLY ADAPTED VEHICLE GRANT.—The
24 Secretary of each military department may provide to an
25 eligible member one grant of \$3,000 for the purpose of

1 adapting a passenger vehicle of the member to accommo-
2 date the mobility needs of the qualifying dependent of the
3 member.

4 (e) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of Defense
5 and the Secretaries of the military departments shall pre-
6 scribe regulations and issue guidelines to ensure the effec-
7 tive implementation of this section.

8 (f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than one year after
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually there-
10 after, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the con-
11 gressional defense committees a report describing—

12 (1) the extent of compliance with the provisions
13 of this section;

14 (2) the effectiveness of support provided under
15 this section; and

16 (3) any challenges encountered in carrying out
17 this section and recommendations for improvement.

18 (g) FUNDING.—The Secretary of Defense shall en-
19 sure that appropriate funding is provided to carry out this
20 section.

21 (h) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.—This section
22 shall take on December 1, 2025, and apply to all reloca-
23 tions of eligible members occurring on or after that date.

24 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) ELIGIBLE MEMBER.—The term “eligible
2 member” means a member of the Armed Forces
3 with a qualifying dependent.

4 (2) QUALIFYING DEPENDENT.—The term
5 “qualifying dependent” means a dependent of a
6 member of the Armed Forces who is in the Excep-
7 tional Family Member Program.

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