

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9869

To make dependents of members of the Armed Forces who died while serving on active duty eligible for enrollment in Department of Defense Education Activity schools on a tuition-free, space-available basis.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

Mr. LALOTA (for himself and Mr. PANETTA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To make dependents of members of the Armed Forces who died while serving on active duty eligible for enrollment in Department of Defense Education Activity schools on a tuition-free, space-available basis.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Gold Star Children
5 Education Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF DEPENDENTS OF CERTAIN DE-**
2 **CEASED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES**
3 **FOR ENROLLMENT IN DEPARTMENT OF DE-**
4 **FENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY SCHOOLS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 108 of title 10, United
6 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-
7 ing to section 2164a the following new section:

8 **“§ 2164b. Eligibility of dependents of certain de-**
9 **ceased members for enrollment in schools**
10 **operated by Department of Defense Edu-**
11 **cation Activity**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A dependent of a covered mem-
13 ber is eligible to enroll in a school operated by the Depart-
14 ment of Defense Education Activity without regard to—

15 “(1) whether the dependent was enrolled in
16 such a school on the date of the death of the mem-
17 ber; or

18 “(2) the proximity of the school in which the
19 dependent seeks enrollment to the location where the
20 dependent resided on the date of the death of the
21 member.

22 “(b) TUITION-FREE, SPACE-AVAILABLE ENROLL-
23 MENT.—Enrollment of a dependent of a covered member
24 in a school operated by the Department of Defense Edu-
25 cation Activity shall be on a tuition-free and space-avail-
26 able basis.

1 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 “(1) The term ‘covered member’ means a mem-
3 ber of the Armed Forces who died while serving on
4 active duty or active Guard and Reserve duty.

5 “(2) The term ‘school operated by the Depart-
6 ment of Defense Education Activity’ means—

7 “(A) a Department of Defense domestic
8 dependent elementary or secondary school es-
9 tablished under section 2164 of this title; or

10 “(B) any elementary or secondary school
11 for dependents of members of the Armed
12 Forces operated by the Department of Defense
13 Education Activity.”.

14 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
15 at the beginning of chapter 108 of such title is amended
16 by inserting after the item relating to section 2164a the
17 following new item:

“2164b. Eligibility of dependents of certain deceased members for enrollment in
schools operated by Department of Defense Education Activ-
ity.”.

18 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
19 tion or the amendments made by this section may be con-
20 strued to affect the eligibility of dependents of individuals
21 described in subsection (j)(2) of section 2164 of title 10,
22 United States Code, for enrollment in a Department of

- 1 Defense education program provided by the Secretary of
- 2 Defense pursuant to subsection (a) of that section.

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