

have spoken. Parents must have a bigger say in their children's education.

Despite overwhelming support, many military families are barred from participating in school choice initiatives because they are either stationed in States without school choice or they are located in one State but domiciled in another.

This amendment would authorize the War Secretary to establish a school choice pilot program for full-time Active-Duty military members.

Mr. Chair, there is no reason why parents who are dedicating their lives in service to our country should not have the same rights as other parents to decide where their kids go to school. This honors a provision in the Department's budget request.

Mr. Chair, I urge all my colleagues to support my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee and the Education Committee, I represent a military district with about 7,000 sailors and officers. Many of those children use local schools which the Federal Government partially reimburses through the Impact Aid Program.

The notion that we are going to start a new program—and really this program is about who pays. It is about funding vouchers. It is not really whether or not military families have a choice in terms of whether they themselves want to go to a parochial school or to a private school. That is not the point. The point that we are talking about here is, again, that this is going to put a stress on the Pentagon's budget, who already, as I said, underfunds Impact Aid and DoDEA schools. If you look at the President's budget that came over, Mr. Chair, there was actually a cut to Impact Aid in terms of what was sent over.

We are going to be in a fight over at the Appropriations Committee to restore funding. Again, as someone who represents a district with public schools that are proudly in the business of offering education for K-12 students, this, again, is just going to be another pressure, external pressure, in terms of reducing what, in fact, these communities really deserve, which is to have the military fully compensate an item that families really depend on in terms of making sure whether they are deployed or whether when they are on base they are getting education and that the local community is not taking an unfair hit in terms of paying for those services.

Again, this amendment would generate a new cost to the Pentagon's budget in terms of DoDEA funding and Impact Aid funding who, again, today are not actually up to the levels that

fully paid for those services. For that purpose, I oppose the amendment.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McDOWELL. Mr. Chair, all this bill does is establish a pilot program so that parents serving in our military have the same rights as other parents to decide where their children go to school.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chairman, this is a voucher program, and vouchers cost money. That is really the issue that I think the proponent really didn't, in my opinion, adequately address.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA).

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

Mr. Chair, we all want the same thing for our military families. While our servicemembers carry out the mission to protect and defend our Nation, we have a duty to care for the loved ones whom they leave behind. For families with school-aged children, that means investing in safe, stable, high-quality schools where every child can learn, grow, and thrive.

This amendment does the opposite. It creates a new, unfunded voucher program that diverts taxpayer dollars to private, including religious, schools instead of strengthening the public schools that educate most of our military-connected children.

This year, taxpayers are investing \$3.6 billion in DoDEA schools, but the majority of military-connected students attend local public schools, which receive just \$70 million in Impact Aid, even though they lose local property tax revenue because of nearby military installations. These schools welcome military children every time new orders arrive, helping them navigate new classrooms, new communities, and the challenges of constant moves and deployments.

If Congress is prepared to invest more in military children's education, and I fully support that, we should be investing where most of them are already learning: our public schools.

This amendment also falls short for families raising children with disabilities. Public schools are legally required to identify students with disabilities and provide the services and accommodations they need. Private schools are not. They may lack specialized staff or refuse to admit a child altogether.

Unlike public schools, private schools are not required to follow the same Federal civil rights protections. Taxpayer dollars could fund schools that discriminate in admissions based on disability, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and other characteristics.

A voucher is not a real choice if a school can simply turn a child away.

Our military families deserve better. Let's strengthen the schools they rely

on, fully support DoDEA and public schools through Impact Aid and ensure every military child has access to a well-funded, accountable education.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chair, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Connecticut has 1¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chair, I think Congresswoman TOKUDA did a very nice job in terms of laying out the reality of what is actually going on in communities where military installations and military bases exist. Those are tax exempt properties where the communities are, again, more than glad to educate the children of military servicemembers. They have to find a way to finance the cost of that education. Unfortunately, the existing programs in place today, DoDEA and Impact Aid, fall short in terms of making sure that those communities are fairly reimbursed.

Mr. Chair, we are not in a place where there should even be a discussion about starting new funding programs for education paid for by the taxpayer until we keep the promise to those communities that we are going to reimburse the cost of educating military schoolchildren.

For that reason, Mr. Chair, I urge a "no" vote from all our colleagues, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. McDOWELL).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina will be postponed.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 27 will not be offered.

□ 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. McDOWELL) having assumed the chair, Mr. BABIN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 8800) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2031

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARIDOPOLOS) at 8 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1438 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 8800.

Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER) kindly take the chair.

□ 2031

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 8800) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, with Mr. WEBER (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 26 printed in part A of House Report 119-755 offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. McDOWELL), had been postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part A of House Report 119-755 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Ms. BOEBERT of Colorado.

Amendment No. 2 by Ms. BOEBERT of Colorado.

Amendment No. 3 by Ms. BOEBERT of Colorado.

Amendment No. 4 by Ms. BOEBERT of Colorado.

Amendment No. 6 by Mr. HUNT of Texas.

Amendment No. 7 by Mr. HUNT of Texas.

Amendment No. 8 by Mr. GALLAGHER of California.

Amendment No. 9 by Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

Amendment No. 14 by Mr. CRANE of Arizona.

Amendment No. 15 by Mr. CRANE of Arizona.

Amendment No. 17 by Mr. CRANK of Colorado.

Amendment No. 18 by Ms. BOEBERT of Colorado.

Amendment No. 19 by Ms. MACE of South Carolina.

Amendment No. 20 by Ms. MACE of South Carolina.

Amendment No. 26 by Mr. McDOWELL of North Carolina.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 15-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 65, noes 361, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 255]

AYES—65

Balderson	Fulcher	McDowell
Bean (FL)	Fuller	McGuire
Begich	Gill (TX)	Miller (IL)
Biggs (SC)	Griffith	Miller (OH)
Boebert	Grothman	Mills
Brecheen	Hageman	Moore (AL)
Burchett	Hamadeh (AZ)	Moore (WV)
Burlison	Harris (MD)	Norman
Cammack	Harris (NC)	Ogles
Ciscomani	Harshbarger	Patronis
Cline	Higgins (LA)	Perry
Cloud	Houchin	Rose
Collins	Hunt	Roy
Comer	Jordan	Schweikert
Crane	Joyce (PA)	Scott, Austin
Crenshaw	Kennedy (UT)	Self
Davidson	Knott	Spartz
Donalds	Loudermilk	Steube
Ezell	Luna	Tiffany
Fallon	Luttrell	Van Drew
Fedorchak	Mace	Wied
Fry	Massie	

NOES—361

Adams	Bresnahan	Craig
Aderholt	Brown	Crank
Aguilar	Brownley	Crawford
Alford	Buchanan	Crockett
Allen	Budzinski	Crow
Amo	Bynum	Cuellar
Amodei (NV)	Calvert	Daids (KS)
Ansari	Carbajal	Davis (IL)
Arrington	Carey	Davis (NC)
Auchincloss	Carson	De La Cruz
Babin	Carter (GA)	Dean (PA)
Bacon	Carter (LA)	DeGette
Baird	Carter (TX)	DeLauro
Balint	Casar	DeBene
Barr	Case	Deluzio
Barragán	Casten	DeSaulnier
Barrett	Castor (FL)	DesJarlais
Baumgartner	Castro (TX)	Dexter
Beatty	Chu	Diaz-Balart
Bell	Cisneros	Dingell
Bentz	Clark (MA)	Doggett
Bera	Clarke (NY)	Downing
Bergman	Cleaver	Dunn (FL)
Beyer	Clyburn	Edwards
Bice	Cohen	Elfreth
Bilirakis	Cole	Ellzey
Bishop	Conaway	Emmer
Bonamici	Correa	Escobar
Bost	Costa	Espallat
Boyle (PA)	Courtney	Estes
		Evans (CO)
		Evans (PA)
		Feenstra
		Fields
		Figures
		Finstad
		Fischbach
		Fitzgerald
		Fitzpatrick
		Fleischmann
		Fletcher
		Flood
		Fong
		Foster
		Foushee
		Fox
		Frankel, Lois
		Franklin, Scott
		Friedman
		Frost
		Gallagher
		Garamendi
		Garbarino
		Garcia (CA)
		Garcia (IL)
		Garcia (TX)
		Gillen
		Gimenez
		Golden (ME)
		Goldman (NY)
		Goldman (TX)
		Gomez
		Gonzalez, V.
		Gooden
		Goodlander
		Gottheimer
		Graves
		Gray
		Green, Al (TX)
		Grijalva
		Guest
		Guthrie
		Harder (CA)
		Haridopolos
		Harrigan
		Hayes
		Hern (OK)
		Hernández
		Hill (AR)
		Himes
		Hinson
		Horsford
		Houlahan
		Hoyer
		Hoyle (OR)
		Hudson
		Huffman
		Huizenga
		Hurd (CO)
		Issa
		Ivey
		Jack
		Jackson (IL)
		Jackson (TX)
		Jacobs
		James
		Jayapal
		Jeffries
		Johnson (GA)
		Johnson (SD)
		Johnson (TX)
		Joyce (OH)
		Kamlager-Dove
		Kaptur
		Kean
		Keating
		Kelly (IL)
		Kelly (MS)
		Kelly (PA)
		Kennedy (NY)
		Khanna
		Kiggans (VA)
		Kiley (CA)
		Kim
		King-Hinds
		Krishnamoorthi
		Kustoff
		LaHood
		LaLota
		Landsman
		Langworthy
		Biggs (AZ)
		Clyde
		Fine
		Gosar
		Larsen (WA)
		Larson (CT)
		Latimer
		Latta
		Lawler
		Lee (FL)
		Lee (NV)
		Lee (PA)
		Leger Fernandez
		Letlow
		Levin
		Liccardo
		Lieu
		Lofgren
		Lucas
		Lynch
		Mackenzie
		Magaziner
		Malliotakis
		Maloy
		Mann
		Mannion
		Mast
		Matsui
		McBath
		McBride
		McCaul
		McClain
		McClain Delaney
		McClellan
		McClintock
		McCollum
		McCormick
		McDonald Rivet
		McGarvey
		McGovern
		McIver
		Meeks
		Mejia
		Menefee
		Menendez
		Meng
		Messmer
		Meuser
		Mfume
		Miller (WV)
		Miller-Meeks
		Min
		Moolenaar
		Moore (NC)
		Moore (UT)
		Moore (WI)
		Moran
		Morelle
		Morrison
		Moskowitz
		Moulton
		Moylan
		Mrvan
		Mullin
		Murphy
		Nadler
		Neal
		Neguse
		Nehls
		Newhouse
		Norcross
		Norton
		Nunn (IA)
		Oberholte
		Ocasio-Cortez
		Olzewski
		Omar
		Onder
		Owens
		Pallone
		Palmer
		Panetta
		Pappas
		Pelosi
		Perez
		Peters
		Pettersen
		Pfleger
		Pingree
		Pocan
		Pou
		Pressley
		Quigley
		Ramirez
		Randall
		Plaskett
		Radewagen
		Rivas
		Wilson (FL)
		Raskin
		Reschenthaler
		Riley (NY)
		Rogers (AL)
		Rogers (KY)
		Ross
		Rouzer
		Ruiz
		Rulli
		Rutherford
		Ryan
		Salazar
		Salinas
		Sánchez
		Scalise
		Scanlon
		Schakowsky
		Schmid
		Schneider
		Scholten
		Schrier
		Scott (VA)
		Sessions
		Sewell
		Sherman
		Shreve
		Simon
		Simpson
		Smith (MO)
		Smith (NE)
		Smith (NJ)
		Smith (WA)
		Smucker
		Sorensen
		Soto
		Stansbury
		Stanton
		Staubert
		Stefanik
		Steil
		Stevens
		Strickland
		Strong
		Stutzman
		Subramanyam
		Suozi
		Sykes
		Takano
		Taylor
		Tenney
		Thanedar
		Thompson (CA)
		Thompson (MS)
		Thompson (PA)
		Timmons
		Titus
		Tlaib
		Tokuda
		Tonko
		Torres (CA)
		Torres (NY)
		Trahan
		Tran
		Turner (OH)
		Underwood
		Valadao
		Van Dwyne
		Van Epps
		Van Orden
		Vargas
		Vasquez
		Veasey
		Velázquez
		Vindman
		Wagner
		Walberg
		Walkinshaw
		Wasserman
		Schultz
		Waters
		Watson Coleman
		Weber (TX)
		Webster (FL)
		Westerman
		Whitesides
		Williams (GA)
		Williams (TX)
		Wilson (SC)
		Womack
		Yakym

NOT VOTING—10

Wittman
Zinke