



NHCSL

THE NATIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS OF STATE LEGISLATORS

RESOLUTION

No. 2019-18

Comprehensive Economic Reforms for Military Families

Reported to the Caucus by the NHCSL
Veterans and Military Affairs Task Force
Sen. Nilsa Cruz Pérez (NJ), Chair

Sponsored by Del. Elizabeth Guzmán (VA)

Unanimously ratified by the Caucus on December 5, 2019

1 **WHEREAS**, military families on average earn 27% less than their civilian
2 counterparts, accounting for more than \$10,000 of lost income each year;¹ and,

3 **WHEREAS**, military families relocate at a rate of about once every two or three years,
4 while civilian families move at a rate of about once every eight or ten years;² and,

5 **WHEREAS**, more than half of active duty families planning to leave the service within
6 two years, have less than \$5,000 in savings for emergency;³ and,

¹ <https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2019/03/majority-military-spouses-are-underemployed/585586/>

² <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/c567/b17bc58e83e93e68e28f1cfe270473593a48.pdf>

³ <https://www.aarp.org/home-family/voices/veterans/info-2019/survey-family-stress.html>

7 **WHEREAS**, military spouses face hardships reintegrating into the workforce,
8 suffering from higher rates of unemployment or underemployment compared to their
9 civilian counterparts;⁴ and,

10 **WHEREAS**, the unemployment rate among military spouses is 26% which is about
11 five times the unemployment rate of the United States;⁵ and,

12 **WHEREAS**, although companies may be deterred from frequent relocation on
13 military spouse resumes, the educational attainment of military spouses is actually
14 higher than the civilian educational attainment level;⁶ and,

15 **WHEREAS**, professional licenses often do not transfer across state lines, and about
16 35 percent of military spouses require professional licenses to maintain status (e.g.
17 doctors, teachers, etc.);⁷ and,

18 **WHEREAS**, there are nearly 1.2 million military children of active-duty service
19 members across the United States with 80% of them attending public school;⁸ and,

20 **WHEREAS**, military children experience difficulties maintaining lasting relationships
21 because of their transient status as a student.⁹

22 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
23 recognize the need to protect, invest, and bolster programs to benefit military
24 families; and,

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
26 calls on the Federal Government to ensure military child development centers are
27 fully funded and held to the highest standards of quality and safety; and,

28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
29 calls on state legislators to pass comprehensive economic reforms for military
30 families that—

- 31 i) Increase educational support for military spouses,
- 32 ii) Implement priority placement programs for military spouses,

⁴ <https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2019/03/majority-military-spouses-are-underemployed/585586/>

⁵ <https://www.military.com/money/personal-finance/credit-debt-management/more-military-families-struggle-with-debt.html>

⁶ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Military-Spouses-in-the-Labor-Market.pdf>

Approximately 30 percent of the U.S. working age population has a college degree, in comparison to and approximately 40 percent of military spouses in this age range do.

⁷ See note 4

⁸ <https://www.aasa.org/content.aspx?id=8998>

⁹ https://www.army.mil/article/147786/experts_explain_mental_state_of_military_children

Separation anxiety, excessive worry, sleep problems, and stress are common in military brat culture. It is also important to note that these mental health issues are not phases and should be continuously monitored in military children.

- 33 iii) Enhance programs that connect military spouses with employment,
- 34 iv) Provide for a tax credit for military spouses seeking professional re-
- 35 licensure,
- 36 v) Provide for temporary professional or occupational licensing for spouses
- 37 of active duty military personnel based in the jurisdiction, if they are
- 38 permanently licensed in the same profession or occupation in another
- 39 state or territory; and,

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
41 calls on state legislators to pass comprehensive economic reforms for military
42 families that—

- 43 i) Provide increased benefits for military children in order to resolve issues
- 44 that children face as they transition to new school districts and states,
- 45 ii) Educate service member and their families on the mental healthcare
- 46 benefits available to them,
- 47 iii) Fund program to educate mental health professional on the military
- 48 lifestyle and the unique stress families face; and,

49 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that, in the view of the situation and circumstances
50 mentioned above, that the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators urges the
51 President to recognize the need for economic reform for military families and urges
52 Congress to create legislation which improves, benefits, or aids military families.

53 THE NHCSL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THIS RESOLUTION
54 ON AUGUST 3, 2019 AT ITS SUMMER MEETING IN SANTA FE, NM.

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56 THE NATIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS OF STATE LEGISLATORS UNANIMOUSLY
57 RATIFIED THIS RESOLUTION ON DECEMBER 5, 2019, AT THE ANNUAL MEETING IN
58 SAN JUAN, PR.