



For Immediate Release
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Military Family and Veteran Community Stand with Special Education Students

“I love being a military family. I love the new experiences of moving around. I love that my sons will grow up with a bucket full of different experiences. But I hate that they have had to be more resilient than most adults are capable of in a lifetime.”

– Army Spouse Special Education Survey Participant

Over 20 military family and veteran nonprofit organizations have signed on to [“The Military Child Special Education Crisis”](#) in support of the military special education students they serve. The recommendations contained in the letter are based on data collected in Partners in PROMISE’s [2021 Military Special Education Survey](#). Military special education families indicated they needed help closing the gaps in education their children experience after a military move. The letter asks congressional leadership to help ease these transitions for military students in special education by:

- Ensuring advanced/remote school enrollment for military dependents with existing Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)
- Allowing active duty military dependents to maintain IEPs at a new duty station after a PCS for up to six months

“We are thrilled to see that so many organizations have stepped up in support of our families,” said Michelle Norman, Executive Director of Partners in PROMISE. **“Our families have been suffering in silence for a long time, but not because our leaders do not care, but rather because our EFMP community is just so overwhelmed with the responsibilities of advocating and caregiving for our families. Partners in PROMISE is happy to lend a hand by simply amplifying their voices and coupling them with data-driven solutions.”**

The letter was drafted by Partners in PROMISE, an organization founded and run by military parents, who pride themselves in elevating the experiences of other military special education families through storytelling and data collected by their annual Military Special Education Survey.

This letter is just one step Partners in PROMISE is taking to elevate the voices of Exceptional Family Members Program (EFMP) families by creating an EFMP Coalition, focused on uniting existing EFMP-focused nonprofits who are helping to advance the cause of vulnerable military families enrolled in the program due to medical and/or education concerns. “EFMP has been divided for so long, with education on one side and the medical piece on the other,” said

Partners in PROMISE Chief Operating Officer, Jennifer Barnhill. “With all the recent support for EFMP standardization across service branches we want to be ready to help educate our leaders about the collective concerns of our family members.”

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Sign on Letter: <https://thepromiseact.org/wp-content/uploads/Partners-in-PROMISE-2021-Sign-on-letter-v4.pdf>

Survey Findings: <https://thepromiseact.org/2021-survey/>

Press Kit:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YC3zrDjuZOzKULkOPCGFwwGfAcvLj1im?usp=sharing>

About Partners in PROMISE

Partners in PROMISE was founded in January 2020 by four mothers to Protect the Rights Of Military children In Special Education (PROMISE). Focusing on a strategy of educating and advocacy, Partners in PROMISE is the link between special needs families, established military service organizations, the Department of Defense, and legislators, working towards collaborative solutions to complex problems.