

Brittany Martin
4463 Laurel Dr, Unit 3
JB Andrews, MD 20762
562-631-3111
brittjmartin@gmail.com
19 February 2026

The Honorable Chair and Members of the
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Annapolis, Maryland

Re: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 263 - Education – Dependent Children of Active Service Members – Advance Enrollment Procedures

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brittany Martin, and I am a resident of Joint Base Andrews/Prince George's, Maryland. I am sharing with you today as a military spouse, a mother of two, with one child in school and another currently navigating the enrollment process. I am a strong supporter of Senate Bill 263. My husband is an active-duty member of the United States Air Force, and our family recently faced significant challenges with school enrollment during a local move, which is why this bill is so important to us, and countless other military families like ours.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB 263. The life of a military family is defined by frequent moves, often with little notice. One of the most stressful aspects of relocating is ensuring our children have a smooth transition into a new school. We have personally struggled with the enrollment process, facing uncertainty and delays that directly impact our children's education and well-being. This bill addresses the specific hurdles that military families encounter when trying to register their children for school in Maryland.

This issue is deeply personal for my family. In August of 2025, we undertook a local move while stationed at Joint Base Andrews. As both my husband, an active-duty service member, and I, a federal civilian employee, work on the base, we decided to relocate from Charles County to Prince George's County to shorten both of our commutes. Although we were already local, we faced an immediate bureaucratic nightmare. Our move-in date for our new house was one week after school started, and the school district would not accept our official military orders or housing contract as sufficient proof of residency. My husband and I were forced to repeatedly leave work to obtain different documents, hoping one would finally be accepted. The process was a moving target.

The consequences were immediate and stressful. Our daughter, who had secured a spot through the school lottery, was at risk of losing it. She ultimately missed the first day of school, feeling anxious and confused as she watched her new peers start without her. As a mother, it was

heartbreaking to see her first impression of a new school being one of exclusion, and I felt frustrated that we had to jump through so many hurdles despite having done everything right.

For us, the main obstacle was the inflexible proof of residency requirement. But I can only imagine the difficulty for families trying to navigate this from out of state. That is why the remote registration provision in this bill is also critically important. It provides a lifeline for those who can't physically be here to deal with these issues. This bill fixes the problem for families like mine, and for hundreds of others moving to Maryland from across the country.

Furthermore, the requirement for a remote registration process is a critical and commonsense measure. It is often impossible for a military spouse to travel to a new state simply to fill out paperwork, especially when our active-duty partner is occupied with their military obligations. SB 263 removes this logistical and financial burden by allowing us to complete the enrollment process from our current duty station.

Finally, this bill recognizes the realities of military life by allowing for flexible proof of residence, such as temporary lodging or a housing assignment letter. This provision alone would have saved my family significant anxiety during our last move.

Military children serve our country, too, by enduring the challenges that come with their parents' service. They face repeated disruptions to their education, friendships, and support systems. By passing SB 263, you will alleviate a major source of stress for these resilient children and their families, ensuring they have the stable and supportive educational environment they deserve.

Thank you for your time and for considering this vital piece of legislation. I strongly encourage you to support Senate Bill 263 for the benefit of all active-duty military families serving in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Brittany Martin