SEC. 547. THREE-YEAR EXTENSION AND REVISION OF AUTHORITIES RELATING TO TRANSITION OF MILITARY DEPENDENT STUDENTS AMONG LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.

(a) ADDITIONAL PROGRAM AUTHORITIES.—Paragraph (2)(B) of section 574(d) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (20 U.S.C. 7703b note) is amended—

(1) by inserting "grant assistance" after "To provide"; and

(2) by striking "including—" and all that follows and inserting "including the following:

"(i) Access to virtual and distance learning capabilities and related applications.

"(ii) Training programs for teachers.

"(iii) Academic strategies to increase academic achievement.

"(iv) Curriculum development.

"(v) Support for practices that minimize the impact of transition and deployment.

"(vi) Other appropriate services to improve the academic achievement of students."

(b) EXTENSION OF EXPIRATION.—Paragraph (3) of such section is amended by striking "September 30, 2013" and inserting "September 30, 2016".

Section-by-Section Analysis

This proposal would authorize the Secretary of Defense to continue to expand its reach to local educational agencies (LEAs) serving the approximately 92 percent of military students living in the United States who do not attend Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) Schools, through September 30, 2016. It would clarify the assistance authorized to be

provided to LEAs by DoDEA. This assistance program supports the unique needs of dependent children of military members who may transition from Department of Defense schools worldwide to local public schools in the U.S. every few years during the course of their elementary and secondary education. This transition is often difficult for these students and the programs of local public schools to assist them vary in quality and consistency. The quality of K-12 education is an important criterion for military families as they make career decisions on assignments, and is directly linked to recruiting and retention in the military services. This proposal would ensure that quality programs and strategies to improve academic achievement are being provided to LEAs that need these programs to better serve military dependent children.

Data from the Department of Education show that there are 340 LEAs with a military child enrollment of five percent or more. Of the 340 LEAs, 153 are not meeting the academic standards required by their state in reading/language arts and math based on annual tests related to academic indicators.

Continued force-structure changes will increase the burden on LEAs, many of which are already low performing. The potential impact on servicemember quality of life may be problematic for military recruitment, retention, and operational readiness. The assistance provided to these schools could help recruitment and retention issues in locations with low-performing schools providing programs and strategies designed to increase academic achievement.

Budget Implications: DoDEA has a baseline of funding for FY 2012-16. This proposal will not change funding levels. This submission requests a five-year extension and includes reporting requirements to address the analysis of the return on investment. This proposal would be funded from within Department of Defense Operations and Maintenance appropriations. The baseline funding is outlined below.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENT ($MILLION) REFLECTED IN PRESIDENT'S BUDGET								
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	Appropriation From	Budget Activity	Dash-1 Line Item
OM-DW	20	20	21	21	21	O&M, DW	01	DoDEA 4GTJ
Total	20	20	21	21	21			

Changes to Existing Law: The proposal would amend section 574(d) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (20 U.S.C. 7703b note) as follows:

SEC. 574. PLAN AND AUTHORITY TO ASSIST LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES EXPERIENCING GROWTH IN ENROLLMENT DUE TO FORCE STRUCTURE CHANGES, RELOCATION OF MILITARY UNITS, OR BASE CLOSURES AND REALIGNMENTS.

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(d) TRANSITION OF MILITARY DEPENDENTS AMONG LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall work collaboratively with the Secretary of Education in any efforts to ease the transitions of military dependent students from Department of Defense dependent schools to other schools and among schools of local educational agencies.

(2) The Secretary of Defense may use funds of the Department of Defense Education Activity for the following purposes:

(A) To share expertise and experience of the Activity with local educational agencies as military dependent students make the transitions described in paragraph (1), including transitions resulting from the closure or realignment of military installations under a base closure law, global rebasing, and force restructuring.

(B) To provide grant assistance programs for local educational agencies with military dependent students undergoing the transitions described in paragraph (1) including the following:

(i) Access to virtual and distance learning capabilities and related applications. ~~distance learning programs, and~~

(ii) Training programs for teachers. ~~training programs to improve the ability of military dependent students who attend public schools in the United States and their teachers to meet the educational needs of such students.~~

(iii) Academic strategies to increase academic achievement.

(iv) Curriculum development.

(v) Support for practices that minimize the impact of transition and deployment.

(vi) Other services appropriate to improve the academic achievement of students.

(3) The authority provided by this subsection expires September 30, ~~2013~~ 2016.

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