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## Iowa and Virginia Adopt Compact on Education Transition for Military Children

WASHINGTON, March 31, 2009 – Two days before the Month of the Military Child begins, Iowa Governor Chet Culver and Virginia Governor Tim Kaine signed legislation to adopt the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children in their respective states, bringing the total number of member states to 14.

Virginia, with the largest number of military children – 92,000, and Iowa, one of the states with the smallest number of military children at 6,000, demonstrate the importance of this compact, said Arthur J. Myers, acting deputy under secretary of defense for military community and family policy.

“It seems quite fitting that the thirteenth and fourteenth states represent this level of diversity,” Myers said. “Wherever military families move from or to, navigating state requirements can be quite challenging. Adoption of the interstate compact will reduce the burden families have faced in the past. Parents can focus their energy on helping their children adjust to a new neighborhood, school and friends.”

The compact is an agreement among and between the states. It addresses the educational transition issues that affect military students as a result of frequent moves and deployments and creates uniform standards of practice among participating states, Myers said. These include issues such as the transfer of records, course placement, graduation requirements, redundant or missed testing, entrance-age variations, and similar transition issues.

This issue impacts more than one million children, said Myers. The number of children in active duty families is slightly more than 630,000 and children in the National Guard and Reserve families total 482,000. The compact is applicable to children of the Guard and Reserve when the service member is on active duty.

“We are pleased that Iowa and Virginia are now members of the interstate compact. Their action will improve and enhance our relationship with the civilian community supporting our military families,” Myers said.

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