

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

May 12, 2015

Los Angeles County is home to the Los Angeles Air Force Base (LAAFB) and the Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC). The family housing community of LAAFB and the SMC is centered in the historic County neighborhood of Fort MacArthur. The Fort MacArthur neighborhood is home to hundreds of military families who send their children to public schools in our County.

Active duty military families are subject to frequent moves and often have little choice where they live. Every time a military family is transferred to a new duty station, their children face the challenging realities of adjusting to a new school. Our active duty families are facing the additional hardship of being denied the ability to send their children to the public school of their choice.

Numerous active duty military families are experiencing instances where a request for an inter-district transfer for their children has been accepted by the district

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chosen by the family, just to be denied by the district where they actually reside. Living in base housing should not cause a military family to lose access to the right public school for their child.

Current law requires each person between 6 and 18 years of age to attend a public school in the school district where their parent or guardian is a resident, with some exceptions. Existing law provides for inter-district transfers and authorizes a school district of choice to give priority of attendance to children of military personnel. Assembly Bill 306, by Assemblymember Hadley, would require the school district chosen by a military family to accept and approve transfer applications if space is available in the desired school and the parent with whom the pupil resides is serving on active duty. AB 306 recently passed the Assembly Education Committee on an unanimous vote.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Interim Chief Executive Officer and the Sacramento Advocates to support AB 306 (Hadley), which would allow active duty military families the option of sending their kids to the school district of their choice.

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