

## Gov. signs bill to help military children

David Griffin, Jr.

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Gov. Kathleen Sebelius signed a bill on April 9 that could help military children who have to move constantly and have less access opportunities to get education and child care.

Representative Sydney Carlin said the need for this bill, which is called the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, stems from military children being moved from place to place and having little to no say in the move.

"What we've experienced is when military students move, their records don't follow in a timely manner," said Carlin.

The compact focuses on five major areas that work to increase the equality in educational opportunities for children in the military: enrollment, which allows state schools to accept hand-delivered educational records; eligibility in extracurricular activities; placement in the correct equivalent courses; graduation; and funding.

Aaron Vernon, junior in secondary education biology, explained his experience from being a student living in a military family. When transferring from school to school, Vernon either would be far ahead of the students at his new school or far behind and forced to play catch-up.

"Half the time I was behind, especially in math," Vernon said. "Every time I transferred, I would have to catch up."

Vernon said the catching up caused his grades to suffer, and he received grades he said he felt could have been better under different circumstances.

Vernon said there are also a social barriers students must overcome being a military child.

"Socially, if you move to a place where military people are not, people already have their social cliques, and its usually not very welcoming," Vernon said. "If you move to a place where you're overseas, it's a lot different."

Kansas and Kentucky are the only states to have the House bill signed out of the 20 states that are actively pushing the bill.

"The goal is to get 10 states to ratify the compact this year," Carlin said. "Then after 10 states ratify, we can go ahead with the compact, so we're not out of the woods yet."