



MILITARY CHILD EDUCATION COALITION®

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Military Child Education Coalition President and CEO Provides Testimony at Congressional Hearing on Exceptional Family Member Program

HARKER HEIGHTS (February 3, 2020) – Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) President and CEO, Dr. Rebecca Porter, will provide testimony to Congress on February 5, 2020 amid mounting concerns for military-connected parents of children with special needs. The Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP), established by the Department of Defense (DOD), coordinates support for military families with special needs, including education or medical support, as a result of military assignments. The various systems intended to support these families, however, are inconsistent for some, stemming from a lack of standardization across service branches and inadequate resources.

A globally recognized 501 (c)(3), MCEC has for more than 20 years advocated for access to inclusive, quality education for America’s military-connected children affected by mobility, transition, deployments, and family separation. Taking up the cause of military families with special needs is integral to the organization’s mission and historical legacy.

“MCEC is honored to use its voice to shine a light on this issue and to bring about the necessary reforms and transformation to improve Special Education on behalf of military parents and children. We look forward to partnering with several other military service organizations,” said Dr. Porter.

Grassroots concerns of EFMP spouses were brought to the attention of MCEC and revealed significant concerns. Among them, assignments to locations where schools were under resourced to meet their children’s education needs. For those parents determined to find a Free and Appropriate Public Education for their child with special needs as set forth in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) the task can be arduous and taxing, both emotionally and financially for the entire family. A highly-charged issue on all sides, by raising awareness, MCEC is committed to inspire productive dialogue and problem-solving sensitive to the unique circumstances of the families we serve.

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About Military Child Education Coalition

The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) serves military-connected children by ensuring their access to opportunities for quality education and by supporting their social, emotional well-being through good and challenging times. MCEC accomplishes this through programs that empower and encourage parents, educators, and children. [Learn more.](#)