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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To make dependents of members of the Armed Forces who died while serving on active duty eligible for enrollment in Department of Defense Education Activity schools on a tuition-free, space-available basis.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LALOTA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To make dependents of members of the Armed Forces who died while serving on active duty eligible for enrollment in Department of Defense Education Activity schools on a tuition-free, space-available basis.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Gold Star Children  
5 Education Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF DEPENDENTS OF CERTAIN DE-**  
2 **CEASED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES**  
3 **FOR ENROLLMENT IN DEPARTMENT OF DE-**  
4 **FENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY SCHOOLS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 108 of title 10, United  
6 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-  
7 ing to section 2164a the following new section:

8 **“§ 2164b. Eligibility of dependents of certain de-**  
9 **ceased members for enrollment in schools**  
10 **operated by Department of Defense Edu-**  
11 **cation Activity**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A dependent of a covered mem-  
13 ber is eligible to enroll in a school operated by the Depart-  
14 ment of Defense Education Activity without regard to—

15 “(1) whether the dependent was enrolled in  
16 such a school on the date of the death of the mem-  
17 ber; or

18 “(2) the proximity of the school in which the  
19 dependent seeks enrollment to the location where the  
20 dependent resided on the date of the death of the  
21 member.

22 “(b) TUITION-FREE, SPACE-AVAILABLE ENROLL-  
23 MENT.—Enrollment of a dependent of a covered member  
24 in a school operated by the Department of Defense Edu-  
25 cation Activity shall be on a tuition-free and space-avail-  
26 able basis.

1 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 “(1) The term ‘covered member’ means a mem-  
3 ber of the armed forces who died while serving on  
4 active duty or active Guard and Reserve duty.

5 “(2) The term ‘school operated by the Depart-  
6 ment of Defense Education Activity’ means—

7 “(A) a Department of Defense domestic  
8 dependent elementary or secondary school es-  
9 tablished under section 2164 of this title; or

10 “(B) any elementary or secondary school  
11 for dependents of members of the armed forces  
12 operated by the Department of Defense Edu-  
13 cation Activity.”.

14 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
15 at the beginning of chapter 108 of such title is amended  
16 by inserting after the item relating to section 2164a the  
17 following new item:

“2164b. Eligibility of dependents of certain deceased members for enrollment in  
schools operated by Department of Defense Education Activ-  
ity.”.

18 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
19 tion or the amendments made by this section may be con-  
20 strued to affect the eligibility of dependents of individuals  
21 described in subsection (j)(2) of section 2164 of title 10,  
22 United States Code, for enrollment in a Department of  
23 Defense education program provided by the Secretary of  
24 Defense pursuant to subsection (a) of that section.