

LEAVE MY CHILD ALONE!

A Family Privacy Project of Working Assets, Mainstreet Moms, and ACORN



Citizen
Co-Sponsor
the Student
Privacy
Protection Act

Top 5 to Know About the Student Privacy Protection Act (H.R. 551)

- 1. H.R. 551 is an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)**, revising provisions for military recruiter access to secondary school student information. Introduced by U.S. Representative Mike Honda (D-CA) in February, the Student Privacy Protection Act directs “local educational agencies to release secondary school student information to military recruiters if the student’s parent provides written consent for the release, and for other purposes.”
- 2. Currently, a family’s consent to release student information to military recruiters is assumed** if a written request “opting out” of the military lists is not submitted. This assumed consent is a breach of privacy, particularly in districts where parental notification is inadequate or nonexistent.
- 3. H.R. 551 essentially amends military access to student information from this “Opt Out” requirement to an “Opt In” process.** With Opt In policy, interested families will explicitly request their information be released to recruiters, rather than the other way around.
- 4. Current co-sponsors** of H.R. 551 include: Reps. John Conyers (D-MI), Sam Farr (D-CA), Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), Barbara Lee (D-CA), Betty McCollum (D-MN), Jim McDermott (D-WA), James McGovern (D-MA), Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), Ron Paul (R-TX), Bobby Rush (D-IL), Fortney “Pete” Stark (D-CA), Stephanie Tubbs-Jones (D-OH), Diane Watson (D-CA), and Robert Wexler (D-FL). There is currently no similar version in the U.S. Senate. (To lobby your elected officials to co-sponsor H.R. 551, or to introduce similar legislation in the Senate, look them up at www.actforchange.com and send a letter.)
- 5. Relevant committees** are House Education and the Workforce, with the bill referred on 3/24 to the House Subcommittee on Education Reform. In the meantime, school boards in several districts have tried adopting “Opt In” policy resolutions of their own, but were forced to back down when threatened with the loss of federal funds.

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Sign on as a Citizen Co-Sponsor to show Congress broad-based support of family privacy against NCLB. Go to www.leavemychildalone.org/hr551 to sign on.